

Colliers' Office, 25 Bowes Street
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THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXI.—NEW SERIES, No. 796.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30, 1861.

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SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE-PATRONAGE and CONTROL.

Individuals wishing to support the Society by becoming Annual Subscribers, or otherwise contributing to its funds, are requested to address their communications to "The Secretary, 2, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, London," and to make remittances payable to WM. EDWARDS, Esq., the Treasurer.

All Annual Subscribers of not less than Half-a-Guinea are entitled to receive the Society's journal, "THE LIBERATOR," monthly.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

THE VOTE by BALLOT SOCIETY.

MEMBERS—all Subscribers of One Shilling and upwards yearly. Friends are requested to agitate in the provinces.

Applications for Petitions, Tracts, and Lectures, to be sent to the undersigned, by whom Subscriptions will be received.

JOHN F. BONTEMPS, Honorary Secretary. Office—5, Guildhall Chambers, London, E.C.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL, near HAMPSTEAD.

The NEXT ELECTION will occur in APRIL, when THIRTY CHILDREN will be admitted.

Forms of application may be obtained at the Office. All papers must be sent in before the 1st March.

CONTRIBUTIONS are earnestly solicited.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary. Office, 32, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

CHRISTIAN BLIND RELIEF SOCIETY.

The Committee of this Society earnestly APPEAL for AID. There are at present upwards of two hundred pensioners on the funds, but it is the anxious desire of the Committee to raise this number to one thousand before the close of 1861. There are several thousands of utterly destitute blind persons in this country, who, from other afflictions in addition to their blindness, or from having lost their sight late in life, are quite unable to earn their daily bread; it is on behalf of such as these the Society asks for HELP.

The mode of administering relief is by pensions of Half-a-Crown per week, or by temporary relief of 5s. or 2s. 6d. per month, until they can be placed permanently on the 2s. 6d. per week list, which is accomplished by rotation. The Society is desirous of extending relief, regardless of creed or denomination, to every blind person of good moral character, who shall possess the necessary qualifications—BLINDNESS and WANT.

A SUBSCRIBER of One Guinea per annum has the privilege of nominating a pensioner, who will be immediately placed on the funds, if found to be a proper object of relief.

A DONATION of Ten Guineas constitutes a LIFE SUBSCRIBER.

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Sound Education on moderate terms, in a healthy locality, eighteen miles from town.

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Park-tone, December 24, 1860.

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THE FIRST SESSION of 1861 will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, January 23.

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Prospectus will be forwarded on application to the Principals (with references, which are of the highest character), HAMPDEN-HOUSE, Brill, near Oxford.

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64, Cornhill, E.C., January, 1861.

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25	0 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	0 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	0 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>
30	0 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>	0 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>
35	0 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
40	0 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
45	0 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
50	0 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	4 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>
55	1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	5 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
60	1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	6 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>

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JOSEPH MARSH, Secretary.

January, 1861.

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THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXI.—NEW SERIES, No. 796.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30, 1861.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.
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therefore, why Churchmen or Methodists, loyally intent upon effacing what they regard as a blot upon the surface of the National Church, should not lend their presence and active aid to the effort now being made to get rid of the nuisance.

There is the more reason for their doing this inasmuch as a long continuance of the present controversy can hardly, by any possibility, serve any good practical end except that aimed at by the Liberation Society. We do not deny, we never have denied, that it is a fair matter of opinion whether the ultimate designs of that association will be quickened or retarded by the drying up of the Church-rate sore. Not a few of its members, we know, would be puzzled to determine whether they ought to be glad of, or sorry for, such a consummation. We are not certain that, looking at the question in relation only to the comprehensive results embraced by the Liberation Society, we ourselves should prefer an early extinction of Church-rates. But what they who have no such ulterior views can hope to gain by prolonging the contest transcends our power of conjecture. Suppose, for example, they should succeed in preventing Sir J. Trelawny's bill from becoming law, it is the utmost they can do. But will this answer their purpose? It will but leave things as they are—and we agree with many of the staunchest defenders of the Church-rate system, that no result can be well worse for the Church. The constant alternation of discussion from parish vestries to Parliament, and *vice versa*, has done anything but strengthen the foundations of the Church Establishment. But this is what must be accepted, or at any rate submitted to, in lieu of abolition. It is surely puerile to indulge the hope of wearing out the patience of those who object to the system—and it is perfectly childish to imagine that it may yet recover the hold it has lost upon the sympathies of the public. The only reasonable justification for continuing the strife must be looked for in the probability of effecting a compromise. But this, happily, is even more impracticable than the extinction of the rate. For, putting aside the fact that a compromise would now fail to command the assent of the main body of objectors to compulsory ecclesiastical taxation, the utter discordance of views dividing Churchmen from Churchmen nullifies the last hope or fear that the controversy can be thus settled.

The well-sustained and very able discussion which took place on Monday, the 21st inst., at an adjourned meeting of the Central Council and members of the Church Institution afforded striking proof of this conclusion, amongst others, that the active and influential friends of Church-rates find themselves utterly unable to agree except in a mere negation. They can all say "No" to the principle of Sir J. Trelawny's Bill. They all deprecate letting matters remain for any length of time as they now stand. But they are at sixes and sevens on the next step to be taken. Some are for making the present law more manageable and more stringent—some are for allowing exemption to a greater or less extent. It seems tolerably evident that the first class is the most numerous, whilst their proposals are the most absurd. Public opinion may be safely trusted to smash any schemes they may be fanatical enough to put before the Legislature, and, therefore, any settlement of the question in their sense may be looked upon as the veriest dream of ecclesiastical Quixotism. The advocates of exemption are by far the abler and wiser men; but they are not only too late in the field to satisfy Dissenters, which would have been possible some years ago, but they are much too candid, much too liberal, much too charitable, to carry with them their own party. Their position on this question closely resembles that of the Peelites on the arena of general politics—one cannot but admire their intellectual and moral

superiority, and one cannot but observe that they are without followers. The clergy, as a body, dread the exemption scheme almost as much as abolition, and the bulk of Dissenters like it so little that they would prefer to it the annoyance of the existing law.

Practically speaking, there remains no choice but between an indefinite prolongation of the present state of things and unconditional abolition. They who deem the latter preferable to the former have no reasonable course left open to them but that of giving their active assistance towards bringing the contest to as speedy and decisive an issue as possible. Their inaction positively promotes the very end which they desire to avoid. A mere negation in itself, it is positive in its influence and results. By not doing anything they do precisely the thing which in their judgment is most objectionable. We commend this consideration to their conscience. They who are not *for* abolition are *against* it—they cannot, if they would, be neutral. They may mean to be—but in effect they are not. Their influence is given to the other side. Their silence is a vote in favour of the *status quo*. If that be detrimental to social harmony, mischievous to the Church, dishonouring to religion, then the only way for them to avoid complicity in producing these results is by throwing all their weight into the scale of immediate abolition.

We do trust that the coming Conference will fairly and fully represent the whole body of Church-rate abolitionists—not Dissenters only, but Liberal Churchmen. The attempt to confound the question with the ultimate objects of the Liberation Society was a dodge for which the public is indebted to the Lords' Committee. Unquestionably that Society, although it did not originate the Anti-Church-rate agitation, nor urge the extinction of the system on Parliament on grounds peculiar to itself, has taken a prominent part in securing for Sir J. Trelawny's Bill its present favourable position. It fell within the scope of its design, and no other organisation exists capable of doing so effectively what is required to be done. But it is a mistake to suppose that the Society wishes to impose its general principles upon those who desire to co-operate with them for the abolition of Church-rates. It will not consent to unite with any party for abolition, with an open or implied understanding that compromise will hereafter be accepted. It requires loyalty to the whole extent of the principle embodied in the bill of the hon. member for Tavistock—but it requires nothing more in order to united effort. It has never been intolerant—never arrogated to itself the right of dictating to others the grounds on which their support must be given. Under these circumstances, we do hope that a conference having been called on the basis of neutrality as it regards all collateral questions and ulterior principles, every section of the community interested in bringing to a close this prolonged controversy by the extinction of the Church-rate system, will take care to be well represented on the occasion, and will heartily contribute to the furtherance of the object in view.

CHURCH-RATE ABOLITION—SPECIAL CONFERENCE.

We have pleasure in announcing that arrangements have been made for an expression of opinion on the Church-rate question which will effectually disprove such foolish assertions as that "only the Baptists and Independents," or only an "insignificant clique" among Dissenters, are desirous of abolishing the exaction.

A circular is now in course of issue, inviting abolitionists from the provinces to attend a conference in London, to be held on Tuesday week, the 12th Feb., just before the second reading of Sir John Trelawny's bill. This circular has attached to it the names of several influential gentlemen of the Liberal party, and includes members of various religious de-

nominations, not excepting the Church of England itself, viz. :—

EDWARD BAINES, M.P.
JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.
SAMUEL BOWLEY.
SAMUEL COURTAULD.
L. L. DILLWYN, M.P.
SAMUEL GUNNELL, M.P.
GEORGE HADFIELD, M.P.
JAMES HEYWOOD.
SAMUEL MORLEY.
EDWARD MIALL.
HENRY PEASE, M.P.
HENRY RICHARD.
JAMES STANSFIELD, M.P.
EDWARD STEANE, D.D., } Secretaries of the Bap-
J. H. HINTON, M.A., } tist Union.
Rev. GEORGE SMITH, } Secretaries of the Con-
Rev. ROBERT ASHTON, } gregational Union of
ROBERT HALLEY, D.D., Chairman of the London
Congregational Board.
Rev. I. V. MUMMERY, Secretary to ditto.
APLEY PELLATT, Chairman of the Dissenting
Deputies.
Rev. ROBERT ECKETT, Secretary to the United
Methodist Free Churches.
Rev. WILLIAM COOKE, Ex-President of Metho-
dist New Connexion.
Rev. R. BROWN ASPLAND, M.A., Secretary of
British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The object of the Conference, as expressed by the circular, is to "obtain from the House of Commons, in the Session about to commence, such a practical expression of opinion as will finally defeat the reactionary designs of those who imagine that the agitation of the last twenty-eight years can be terminated by the passing of a measure by which the law of Church-rates, instead of being abolished, will be made more stringent."

A hope is expressed "that no place of importance will be unrepresented; that in the case of larger towns, several gentlemen may be able to be present; and that a large number of rural parishes—which are deeply interested in the satisfactory settlement of this question—will send at least one friend on the occasion."

We emphatically endorse the wish thus expressed. To many the time of year may not be convenient for a visit to London; and it may also be thought vexatious to have to take so much trouble in connexion with a question on which public opinion has been so repeatedly expressed. But we reiterate what has been already urged in these columns—that a decisive effort on the part of abolitionists, put forth this year, may be expected virtually to settle the question, and in the only satisfactory way. It is high time to brush away with a strong hand the absurd allegations of a reactionary party, who think that their attempts to excite a panic among Churchmen will induce the House of Commons to stultify itself, and to attempt what none would have ventured to think of years ago.

We recommend all abolitionists who can travel to London to be present at the Conference at once to place themselves in communication with the Secretary, the Rev. N. T. LANGRIDGE, 2, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, London, who will furnish the requisite information as to the mode of admission, &c.

CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

CHURCH-RATES AT SYDENHAM.—The contest in the parish of St. Bartholomew, Sydenham, promises to become a *cause célèbre* in the history of Church-rates. On Thursday the authorities of the parish summoned five of the leading defaulters, who are Churchmen, to the Greenwich Police-court, where Mr. Maude, the magistrate, disposed of the case. Mr. Redpath, vestry clerk, Messrs. Adams and Parsey, churchwardens, and Mr. Weatherall, collector, attended to prosecute the summonses, and Mr. J. M. Chamberlain, honorary solicitor; G. J. Cockerell, Esq., chairman; and Mr. George Offor, jun., honorary secretary of the Sydenham Anti-Church-rate Association, attended on behalf of the parties summoned. Mr. Chamberlain disputed the jurisdiction of the magistrate upon three grounds:—In the first place, because the parish of St. Bartholomew, Sydenham, was a district parish, formed under Lord Blandford's Act, without power to make or enforce Church-rates; secondly, on the general ground, the magistrate having no power to make an order, the validity of the rate in question being *bond fide* disputed; and, thirdly, with reference to the summons against the railway company, because the amount claimed exceeded 10*l.*, the jurisdiction of the magistrate being limited to that sum. The whole of the summonses were dismissed, upon the grounds urged upon Mr. Chamberlain. In the evening a densely crowded and excited public meeting was held at the Greyhound Inn, Sydenham, at which resolutions were passed approving of the conduct of the magistrate, and pledging themselves not to pay any rates in Sydenham. The amount which had been demanded for rates was paid into the funds of the Anti-Church-rate Association.

SEIZURE AT DARLINGTON.—A distress having been made on the lands of Joseph Pease, Esq., the following hand-bill was circulated in Darlington:—"New Market Place, Crook.—Mr. John Pigg will sell by auction, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of January, 1861,

one fat beast, for tithe or rent charge, due on lands occupied by Joseph Pease, Esq. Sale at twelve o'clock." Pursuant to this notice, the auctioneer and his men drove the beast to an appropriate spot, viz., opposite the church gate, and disposed of the beast to the highest bidder. There appears peculiar hardship in this case, as Mr. Pease not only supports two visitors to perform the duties appertaining to the clergymen of the parish, but in many ways encourages those who feel a pleasure in helping themselves. The feeling that each denomination should support itself, seems to be growing in the district; the flourishing condition of various bodies of Methodists proving the soundness of the voluntary system.

CHURCH-RATE CONTEST AT KIRKHAM.—The parish of Kirkham, Lancashire, was the scene of a very exciting Church-rate contest last week. The rate was eventually carried by a majority of forty-two, but a protest against the legality of the proceedings was handed in by the Rev. W. Knox, Independent minister, and other parties.

TRIUMPH OF VOLUNTARYISM IN A RURAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH.—The parish church of Llawhaden, a poor district in South Wales, is in a very dilapidated state, and a few days ago a vestry meeting was held to consider how it should be repaired. There was a good deal of discussion on the subject, great objection being made to the laying of a rate. It appears that the estimate for the repairs was about 800*l.* R. P. Davies, Esq., of Ridgway, though not strongly opposed to a rate, stated that if the parish would in the way they thought most proper make up 300*l.*, he (Mr. Davies) would use his best endeavours to get the remainder from societies, friends, and others, many of whom had promised, and he had not the least doubt of success in obtaining sufficient funds. A rate of one shilling in the pound was actually proposed but not put. Mr. W. James, a Dissenter, suggested that they should see what could be done of a free-will offering. Mr. Davies thought that a very good plan. They would send the question round and see what could be done. It was his intention to give 100*l.* (but independent of the parish) together with paying the architect's bill, which, according to 5 per cent. on the outlay would be less than 40*l.*, but just to make a beginning he would put his name down again for 20*l.* Mr. Davies then asked who came next. The question was sent round and was cheerfully and liberally responded to by all present. 200*l.* was collected. Four gentlemen were appointed to solicit subscriptions from parishioners not present. In that visit "they were astonished at the hearty reception they met with." On the whole, 350*l.* was thus subscribed. Could not the poor parishes of England and Wales raise money for church repairs as easily as Llawhaden?

THE CHURCH DEFENCE MOVEMENT.

Archdeacon Denison writes to the *Morning Post* recommending the supporters of Church-rates to lose no time in getting up petitions against the proposed abolition of the impost. He suggests that "two petitions, each in duplicate, be circulated in every parish—one for the rate-payers, praying that the union of Church and State as assailed in the assault upon Church-rates be maintained inviolate; the other for the poor, praying that their right to worship free of cost in their parish church as provided to them by Church-rate, be maintained inviolate." The Venerable gentleman adds:—"The number of petitions would thus be doubled, and the signatures increased in a much larger proportion. I have made a trial of what I recommend, and with entire success."

Last week there was a meeting of the Bath Church Defence Association. A Mr. FIELD pointed with satisfaction to the fact that on the Church-rate question, High, Low, and Broad Church had all shaken hands. He contended that the Church of England was emphatically the poor man's Church, and remarked that Dissenters must have very peculiar consciences if they were hurt at being called upon to help in providing religious instruction for the poor. On the subject of Church-rates, he urged that there should be no compromise, for if the principle was given up, the idea of an Established Church might as well be given up altogether. Dr. Tunstall seconded the resolution, remarking that Church-rates were based on the common law of the land, which recognised the obligation of every parish to sustain the worship of God therein. The second resolution expressed the desirability of entering into communication with influential friends and other societies, with a view to the presentation of petitions to the House of Commons, praying for a Committee on the subject of Church-rates, which should devise such an adjustment of the question as would not compromise the rights of the Established Church.

The *Western Times* contains an amusing account of "a hole-and-corner meeting" at Newton Abbot of the clergy of the Rural Deanery of Ipplepen, comprising thirty-six parishes, held for the purpose of forming a committee of management, to be designated the executive body of the association, to be composed of all the clergy of the deanery, and an equal number of "Lay Consultees." The clergy of the deanery were declared *ex officio* members of the committee, and a number of "Lay Consultees" were appointed. Subsequently the Chairman (Rev. H. Martin) introduced the question of Church-rates, saying that he had received a draft of a petition from Archdeacon Downall, which he would read to them:—

That your petitioners believe the union of Church and State to be the very principle and basis of the English Constitution. That your petitioners are persuaded that the abolition of Church-rates would greatly promote the severance of the Church from the State. That your

petitioners believe the National Church, with its parochial system, to be the best means that can be devised for securing the administration of religion among all sorts and conditions of men throughout the land. That your petitioners therefore pray your honourable house to adopt such measures as will sustain the fabrics of the parish church, and furnish all things necessary for the performance of Divine worship, by enacting a law which shall define the rule on which the Church-rate assessment shall be founded, devise means to collect that assessment, and provide an expeditious and cheap mode of recovering the rate.

The Rev. Dr. HARRIS said the Bishop, he knew, was disposed to give a *bible more latitude* than was given in the petition just read, and he was very much disposed to agree with him. The petition of the Archdeacon would provide not only for the fabric, but also that which was necessary for the performance of Divine service. He confessed, however, that he for one, should be quite willing to accept a compromise, and get a Church-rate that would secure the maintenance of the fabric, leaving the things necessary for the maintenance of Divine worship to be provided for by the congregations. Mr. ROBINSON agreed very much with the Rev. Dr. Harris, but he would advocate the circulation of several petitions, because different views were held on the Church-rate question by Churchmen, and what would be signed by one would not be signed by another. The CHAIRMAN said the Church Institution sent out different forms, leaving the clergy in the different parishes to select which they pleased. Mr. ROBINSON said he had no less than five from the committee in London. The Rev. J. BOWDEN said it seemed to him that it would be better to adopt the modified form of petition, as prepared by the bishop. The CHAIRMAN: I saw Barnes (the bishop's secretary) the day before yesterday, and he said I may expect to receive the bishop's petition in a day or two. Barnes read me a draft a week or two ago, but I think the bishop has altered it. The Rev. J. BOWDEN had heard the petition in question read, and he believed it had some reference to the relief of Dissenters, and bore more particularly on the maintenance of the fabric of the Church. Mr. ROBINSON then moved:—

That this meeting, considering the great importance of continued resistance to the attempt to abolish Church-rates, strongly recommends the clergy and churchwardens of the several parishes in this rural deanery to prepare, without delay, petitions for presentation to Parliament against such abolition.

The Rev. J. BOWDEN seconded the motion, and it was carried. A resolution was then proposed by Mr. SHEPPARD, and seconded by Mr. WATTS, to the effect that a certain number of petitions should be sent out by the association, so that the different parishes might take their choice of them. The motion having been carried, the meeting separated.

SALE OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE RECTORY OF SHELFANGER.

(From the *Norfolk News*.)

The right of next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger was sold at Garraway's coffee-house, Change-alley, Cornhill, on Wednesday last, by Mr. Clark, of the firm of Farebrother, Clark and Lye. There were between twenty and thirty persons present.

The auctioneer, in offering the property, said:—It is not my intention, gentlemen, to read to you the conditions of sale. They have been published with the particulars. If there should be any question that you think necessary to ask, I shall be happy to give you any information in my power. If there be no question upon the conditions, I shall proceed to read to you the description, which is, "The right of next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger, in the diocese of Norwich, situate about two miles from the town of Diss, subject to the life of the present incumbent." There is a residence containing five bed-rooms, parlour, two kitchens, dairy, and the necessary out-buildings, and about forty acres of glebe land. The age of the incumbent is based upon a minute in the possession of the vendors, obtained in 1816, in reference to the rector, by which his age was then stated to be forty-five. The incumbent informed me that he was born on Easter-day, which occurred about 1770. On reference to the old prayer-books of that period I found that Easter-day occurred on the day mentioned in the year 1771, and did not occur again till the year 1783, nor again till 1795; therefore there is no doubt that he was born on the 13th of March, 1771. That is the day he always puts it at himself, and no doubt it is correct. The population of the parish is about 500; the duty is double, morning and afternoon. The residence, as of course those of you who have been down to see it are aware, is one which perhaps in these times would hardly be sufficient for a gentleman having an income of 500*l.* or 600*l.* a year. Nevertheless, with a very little outlay it could be made very comfortable; and as regards dilapidation, about which I heard a good deal before I went down, I may state that there is none, but the house for its age is in a very good state of repair. With reference to the church, the church is very old, and the chancel is very old of course; but it is in a very good condition, except from the recent snow, and I think perhaps 5*l.* will repair the whole of the building. Now we sell to you the absolute right of the next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger, and the question, of course, is, what it may be worth? I was very much struck when I saw Mr. Morris yesterday. The first question almost that he put to me was, "I suppose you have come down to see when I am going to die?" There have been gentlemen for the last four or five years

Visiting me about every five or six weeks, and at last, all I did was to show my nose at the top of the stairs, and say that I was engaged." "Well," I said to him, "I have really come down for no such purpose, for it is no part of my duty to say when you are going to die; but, of course, having arrived at your age, beyond the ordinary age of man, you cannot be expected to live very long. All I shall state to-morrow will be that which I always do state, that one can only take the age of the incumbent according to the present duration of life, the same as the insurance offices do." Therefore, as to this gentleman being in good health or bad health, and whether he is likely to live a long time or a short time, you will have no observation from me. I can only say, that his age is ninety, and it is impossible to say whether he will live one year or five years. Probably his life is worth from one year to a year and a half's purchase according to the tables. Now, to arrive at the value of the next presentation, we should consider what would be the value of a life of thirty, supposing that to be the age of the gentleman to be presented with a net income from this living approaching 577*l.* a year. Well, if you have all the appliances to a living, beautiful house, beautiful grounds, a lovely district, excellent society, and in the proximity of a cathedral town or the metropolis, there will be no difficulty at all in realising some sixteen years' purchase for this life-interest, less, of course, the purchase of a life of ninety; but, unfortunately this living does not possess these advantages; first, the house not being very good; next, it being some distance removed from town, although you have the advantage of being but a very short distance from the cathedral city of Norwich, and you are in a beautiful country: and perhaps this is one of the prettiest parts of it, for Shelfanger stands high and dry, and not far from the market town of Diss. It is true there is not much society, for the society appears to lie on the other side of the town of Diss, not so much upon this side of it, but under the circumstances, a living of this kind is probably worth 4,800*l.* or 5,000*l.* This is my idea. I have not said a word as to whether you will have the presentation to-morrow, or not for the next ten years; I can only say that the incumbent is at the advanced age of ninety, and you may calculate that any day it may fall in, or it may not fall in for three or four years, but the tables give you for his life about a year and a half's purchase. Having told you the value, I will now collect your biddings. We have come here to-day to sell it; it will be for you to determine on the fall of the hammer whether it shall be 5,000*l.* or 4,800*l.* or 4,700*l.* or 4,500*l.* or 4,000*l.* or 3,500*l.* I am in your hands, gentlemen; shall I say 3,000*l.* or 2,500*l.* or 2,400*l.* or 2,300*l.* or 2,200*l.*?

Bids from 2,000*l.* to 2,500*l.*?

The Auctioneer: 2,500*l.* is bid for the next presentation for the rectorcy of Shelfanger. The income is approaching 500*l.* a-year, without making allowance for a curate. Of course, with a population of this kind, the incumbent is not bound by the bishop to provide a curate, but it is fair to deduct 100*l.* for a curate. Supposing the incumbent does the duty himself, that will leave 450*l.* a-year, being about four-and-a-half years' purchase for what you may in ordinary cases call a thirty years' tenure.

2,600*l.* and 2,700*l.* were then bid.

The Auctioneer: You are in an agricultural district, surrounded by yeomen farmers of great respectability—tithes easily collected. You are liked very much in the district; your duties are not very burdensome; that as regards the house, if any one who has it thinks it is not good enough, he has only to borrow the money from Queen Anne's bounty, the payment of which will extend over thirty years. I believe an estimate was made to build a nice rectorcy house, from designs which I saw, for about 600*l.* Any one desirous of putting a son into the Church will find this an opportunity that is not likely to occur again soon. It is not often that you get the offer of a living with an incumbent at this advanced age, and when a *locum tenens* is put in it is generally said that he lives longest. But that is not the case in the present instance. The gentleman has had the enjoyment of the living for many years, and is now at an advanced period of life; and in the course of a very few years this living will fall into the possession of the purchaser.

2,800*l.* was then bid.

The Auctioneer: Of course, gentlemen, if it is your intention that this living should be sacrificed, it must be so, for bear in mind that the price that is now offered for it does not at all represent the value. There will be no one to direct you; the living will be your own. The question is whether an income like this of 420*l.* a-year, in a beautiful part of the county of Norfolk, is to be given away for the sum of 2,800*l.*! Now, gentlemen, is it your pleasure to advance upon this bidding? You may buy bushels of incomes, but they are what I call "starvation" incomes, not at all suitable for gentlemen who have had a college education, and upon whose education their fathers have spent some thousands of pounds, and it is not sufficient to place them in the position in which gentlemen ought to be placed. But here you have an income of 500*l.* or 600*l.* ample means in an agricultural district, and with the prospect of an immediate possession. I cannot understand anything like this being sold for 2,800*l.* Is it your pleasure, gentlemen, to increase? Let me impress this upon you all; because do not go away with the imagination that this is brought here by trustees to test its value, and not to be sold. I assure you that on the fall of the hammer it will actually be sold; and unless you increase the bidding it will be sold for 2,800*l.*

There being no other bidder the property was sold for 2,800*l.* The name of the purchaser did not transpire.

THE CLERGY OF LONDON AND RATIONALISM IN THE CHURCH.

The *Record* publishes a brief outline of a private meeting of the City of London clergy, held on Thursday last at Sion College, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent attacks made on the authority of the Bible and the doctrines of Christianity, by clergymen holding high offices in the Universities and the public schools of England." In the first instance, the Rev. Dr. Rowsell, recently appointed to succeed the Dean of Ripon in St. Margaret's Rectory, rose and protested against the summons for the convocation of the London clergy, as implying a libel on the clergymen, whom it charged with infidelity. He admitted that as no names were mentioned, it could not be accounted actually libellous, but that had the names of the seven Essayists and Reviewers been stated, it would have been actionable at law. It was replied to Dr. Rowsell that the transaction was one between the clergy and their bishop, and that such communications were privileged. But Dr. Rowsell was not satisfied, and left the meeting, being followed by two junior clergymen, one of them lately appointed to a living in the east of London. After the retirement of Dr. Rowsell the proceedings were conducted in a spirit of singular unanimity, the clergy being apparently of one mind as to the gravity of the present crisis, and the necessity of making a decided protest against the attempts made to reduce the Bible to the position described in such exulting terms by the *Westminster Review*, "when the public once begin to read their Bibles in the spirit" of the Essayists, "they will soon cease to read them at all, and the Hebrew Scriptures will take their place on the bookshelf of the learned beside the Arabian and Sanskrit poets;" and when "the simple believer must find all the bases of his creed undermined, the whole external authority on which it rests swept away, and the mysterious book of truth shall fade into an old collection of poetry and legend, and the scheme of redemption in which he has been taught to live and die, turns out to be a demoralising invention of men."

An address to the Bishop of London was then moved by the Rev. D. M'Caul, and seconded by the Rev. E. Auriol, in which his lordship's attention is called to the peril of the crisis, and to the necessity of some action being taken by the rulers of the Church if we are to stem the tide of infidelity which is now setting in, and which is all the more dangerous because no longer proceeding from open enemies, but from those who profess their assent and consent to the Articles of the Church of England, and have obtained official sway over the education of youth by positions of influence which they hold in important educational institutions.

The Rev. W. Scott expressed his general assent to the views expressed in Dr. M'Caul's address, but suggested another which he thought would more certainly secure unanimity. After a good deal of discussion Mr. Scott's address was adopted, after some of the clauses in Dr. M'Caul's address had been imported into it. The result was that the clergy present, without one dissentient voice, have carried an address to the bishop condemning the *Essays and Reviews*, and have appointed a deputation to wait on his lordship to request him to fix a day for its presentation.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE AND BARON BUNSEN.

At a recent meeting of the Evangelical Alliance the following resolution of condolence with the bereaved family of the late Baron Bunsen was adopted:—

Resolved.—That this committee have heard with deep and sincere regret of the death of that distinguished Christian statesman and that man of letters, the Baron de Bunsen, and desire the chairman to communicate to his bereaved family their heartfelt sympathy in their affliction. Without expressing their concurrence in all the theological views of Baron de Bunsen, the committee would express their sense of the personal excellence in all the relations of life of that distinguished man, and of the warm affection which he at all times manifested towards the true servants of God, of every sect and nation.

The committee would also record their grateful recollection of the deep interest which the deceased Baron took in the Berlin Conference of 1857, and the readiness with which he responded to the call of his sovereign, the King of Prussia, to be present on that occasion.

Upon the publication of this resolution the Rev. T. R. Birks addressed a strong letter of censure to a public journal. Sir Culling Eardley, in a subsequent letter to Mr. Birks, justifies the resolution adopted by the Alliance. He says:—

The minute was purposely so worded as to avoid committing us to objectionable views contained in Baron de Bunsen's critical works.

The Alliance had found him an ever ready friend of religious liberty, to whom we never appealed in vain, in his public capacity, to obtain redress for grievances; he came, too, at the summons of the King of Prussia, to Berlin in 1857, to be present at the Conference; and though he was not, and consistently with some of his opinions could not be, a member of the Alliance, he did there in the most public manner evince his sympathy with, and love towards the assembled Evangelical party of Christendom.

I say we were justified as a body in paying a tribute of respect to such a man. We said nothing of him as a teacher; and there was not one of us who would have consented to do so. We said nothing of his possessing saving faith, though, for one, I entertain the confident belief, founded mainly on the information of others, but partly also on my own limited intercourse with him, that Baron de Bunsen, with all his serious intellectual errors (for such I deem them), was a child of God resting

upon his Saviour's cross. But what we did say was, that he was a man of personal excellence in the relations of life, and a Christian statesman.

By that expression I am prepared to stand. If you will ask the diplomatic body of London, many of whom would naturally dislike his doing so, they would tell you that no public man ever more thoroughly carried publicly avowed Christian motives into public life. And surely no one who, like yourself, is prepared to call any sovereign who may come to the throne of England, "religious and gracious," can object, *à fortiori*, to our calling such a man as Baron de Bunsen a Christian statesman. There is a very clear and definite sense in which, even apart from personal piety, public characters who strive to rule their lives by Christian principle are entitled to that epithet.

The *Record* expresses great dissatisfaction with Sir Culling Eardley's explanation and with the resolution of the Evangelical Alliance.

OATHS IN COURTS OF JUSTICE.

IMPRISONMENT FOR REFUSING TO TAKE OATH.—At the Halifax Borough Court on Friday, a man named John Howard, a pauper, was brought up by an assistant overseer to give evidence with a view to his removal from the Halifax workhouse to his own parish in London. He refused to be sworn, stating that he did not want to be removed to London, as he had no friends there; besides, he was an atheist, and consequently his oath would not be accepted. The bench informed him that if he refused to give evidence he would be committed to prison. Howard then said, "I don't belong to any religion; I am an atheist, and was brought up one." The bench at once committed him to the House of Correction for fourteen days, under the act 7 & 8 Vic. c. 191, sec. 70, which says, "If any person, coming or brought before any such justices in any such proceedings, refuse to give evidence thereon, such justices may commit him to the House of Correction for any time not exceeding fourteen days, or until he shall submit himself to be examined; and, in case of such submission, the order of any such justice shall be a sufficient warrant for his discharge." Before the rising of the court, he sent word from the cell that he was willing to give evidence. He did so, and was liberated.—*Manchester Guardian*.

REFUSAL OF THE OATH OF A SECULARIST AT ROCHDALE.—Some time since, in the County Court, Rochdale, the cause of Maden and Wife v. Catonach being called, the only witness put forward was Mrs. Maden, who, being questioned thereupon, avowed her disbelief in God or a future state, whereupon the judge refused her evidence, and nonsuited the plaintiff. The Secularists have made considerable stir in this matter, and lecturers have locally capitalised the event. Subscriptions, too, have been got up in favour of Mrs. Maden, and a determination was come to that an application should be made to set aside the nonsuit. Accordingly Mr. Cranford, M.P., on Wednesday made an application to his Honour (C. Temple, Esq.) at the sitting of the Court. The learned counsel urged the question of the incompetency of witnesses on account of opinions entertained by them had not been settled by the Courts, yet it had been presumptively held that all evidence should be rejected, if the witness disavowed a belief in a Deity or a future state. He submitted that this dictum had not received the approval of the superior courts, and quoted several cases to support his view that it was sufficient to administer any oath, or affirmation or declaration, most binding on the conscience. Mr. Cranford further contended that the oath was a common law form, and urged that the common law was elastic, and that judges should mould it to circumstances. The learned gentleman also quoted a note on the subject in "Taylor on Evidence," and concluded a long argument by asking his Honour to set aside the nonsuit. He then put in the affidavit of Joseph White, reporter, as to what transpired at the hearing. His Honour gave a rather lengthy decision, the pith of which was that he was not a legislator but an administrator of the law; that as he found the law it was his duty and effort to administer it; and that finding the oath compulsory he had nothing to do but enforce it. He admitted the elastic character of the common law, but believed, and was supported in his opinion by the most eminent judges, that belief in a Deity, the obligation of an oath, and a future state of rewards and punishments, was essential in any person tendering himself or herself as a witness. The application was therefore refused.

THE REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.

The *Freeman* publishes some further interesting information respecting the progress of the revival movement in Jamaica. The Rev. J. E. Henderson, writing from the Baptist Mission House, says:— "Since the appeal on behalf of Jamaica, which appears in another column, was written, the West Indian mails have arrived. The intelligence brought is of the deepest interest. The religious awakening is extending. There are now but few of the stations on the north side of the island unaffected by it, whilst several of those on the south side, and in the interior, have been visited by a gracious influence. Bethel, Hastings, and Falmouth are being greatly blessed. My brother, writing from the first-named place, says, 'Upwards of 150 were smitten down in two days. The people crowded into the chapel on Sabbath morning, and I could not get them away again until six o'clock on Tuesday evening. We have been up night and day. Oh, it is a glorious time! but I fear some of us will fall from overwork and excitement, though to work now is indeed delightful. I start at midnight for Montego Bay.' From that place he writes:—'I am at

nominations, not excepting the Church of England itself, viz. :—

EDWARD BAINES, M.P.
JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.
SAMUEL BOWLEY.
SAMUEL COURTAULD.
L. L. DILLWYN, M.P.
SAMUEL GURNEY, M.P.
GEORGE HADFIELD, M.P.
JAMES HEYWOOD.
SAMUEL MORLEY.
EDWARD MIAUL.
HENRY PEASE, M.P.
HENRY RICHARD.
JAMES STANSFIELD, M.P.
EDWARD STEANE, D.D., } Secretaries of the Bap-
J. H. HINTON, M.A., } tist Union.
REV. GEORGE SMITH, } Secretaries of the Con-
REV. ROBERT ASHTON, } gregational Union of
England and Wales.
ROBERT HALLEY, D.D., Chairman of the London
Congregational Board.
REV. J. V. MUMMERY, Secretary to ditto.
APPSLEY PELLATT, Chairman of the Dissenting
Deputies.
REV. ROBERT ECKETT, Secretary to the United
Methodist Free Churches.
REV. WILLIAM COOKE, Ex-President of Metho-
dist New Connexion.
REV. R. BROOK ASPLAND, M.A., Secretary of
British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The object of the Conference, as expressed by the circular, is to "obtain from the House of Commons, in the Session about to commence, such a practical expression of opinion as will finally defeat the reactionary designs of those who imagine that the agitation of the last twenty-eight years can be terminated by the passing of a measure by which the law of Church-rates, instead of being abolished, will be made more stringent."

A hope is expressed "that no place of importance will be unrepresented; that in the case of larger towns, several gentlemen may be able to be present; and that a large number of rural parishes—which are deeply interested in the satisfactory settlement of this question—will send at least one friend on the occasion."

We emphatically endorse the wish thus expressed. To many the time of year may not be convenient for a visit to London; and it may also be thought vexatious to have to take so much trouble in connexion with a question on which public opinion has been so repeatedly expressed. But we reiterate what has been already urged in these columns—that a decisive effort on the part of abolitionists, put forth this year, may be expected virtually to settle the question, and in the only satisfactory way. It is high time to brush away with a strong hand the absurd allegations of a reactionary party, who think that their attempts to excite a panic among Churchmen will induce the House of Commons to stultify itself, and to attempt what none would have ventured to think of years ago.

We recommend all abolitionists who can travel to London to be present at the Conference at once to place themselves in communication with the Secretary, the Rev. N. T. LANGRIDGE, 2, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, London, who will furnish the requisite information as to the mode of admission, &c.

CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

CHURCH-RATES AT SYDENHAM.—The contest in the parish of St. Bartholomew, Sydenham, promises to become a *cause célèbre* in the history of Church-rates. On Thursday the authorities of the parish summoned five of the leading defaulters, who are Churchmen, to the Greenwich Police-court, where Mr. Maude, the magistrate, disposed of the case. Mr. Redpath, vestry clerk, Messrs. Adams and Parsey, churchwardens, and Mr. Weatherall, collector, attended to prosecute the summonses, and Mr. J. M. Chamberlain, honorary solicitor; G. J. Cockerell, Esq., chairman; and Mr. George Offor, jun., honorary secretary of the Sydenham Anti-Church-rate Association, attended on behalf of the parties summoned. Mr. Chamberlain disputed the jurisdiction of the magistrate upon three grounds:—In the first place, because the parish of St. Bartholomew, Sydenham, was a district parish, formed under Lord Blandford's Act, without power to make or enforce Church-rates; secondly, on the general ground, the magistrate having no power to make an order, the validity of the rate in question being *bond fide* disputed; and, thirdly, with reference to the summons against the railway company, because the amount claimed exceeded 100*l.*, the jurisdiction of the magistrate being limited to that sum. The whole of the summonses were dismissed, upon the grounds urged upon by Mr. Chamberlain. In the evening a densely crowded and excited public meeting was held at the Greyhound Inn, Sydenham, at which resolutions were passed approving of the conduct of the magistrate, and pledging themselves not to pay any rates in Sydenham. The amount which had been demanded for rates was paid into the funds of the Anti-Church-rate Association.

SEIZURE AT DARLINGTON.—A distress having been made on the lands of Joseph Pease, Esq., the following hand-bill was circulated in Darlington:—“New Market Place, Crook.—Mr. John Pigg will sell by auction, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of January, 1861,

one fat beast, for tithe or rent charge, due on lands occupied by Joseph Pease, Esq. Sale at twelve o'clock.” Pursuant to this notice, the auctioneer and his men drove the beast to an appropriate spot, viz., opposite the church gate, and disposed of the beast to the highest bidder. There appears peculiar hardship in this case, as Mr. Pease not only supports two visitors to perform the duties appertaining to the clergymen of the parish, but in many ways encourages those who feel a pleasure in helping themselves. The feeling that each denomination should support itself, seems to be growing in the district; the flourishing condition of various bodies of Methodists proving the soundness of the voluntary system.

CHURCH-RATE CONTEST AT KIRKHAM.—The parish of Kirkham, Lancashire, was the scene of a very exciting Church-rate contest last week. The rate was eventually carried by a majority of forty-two, but a protest against the legality of the proceedings was handed in by the Rev. W. Knox, Independent minister, and other parties.

TRIUMPH OF VOLUNTARISM IN A RURAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH.—The parish church of Llawhaden, a poor district in South Wales, is in a very dilapidated state, and a few days ago a vestry meeting was held to consider how it should be repaired. There was a good deal of discussion on the subject, great objection being made to the laying of a rate. It appears that the estimate for the repairs was about 800*l.* R. P. Davies, Esq., of Ridgway, though not strongly opposed to a rate, stated that if the parish would in the way they thought most proper make up 300*l.*, he (Mr. Davies) would use his best endeavours to get the remainder from societies, friends, and others, many of whom had promised, and he had not the least doubt of success in obtaining sufficient funds. A rate of one shilling in the pound was actually proposed but not put. Mr. W. James, a Dissenter, suggested that they should see what could be done of a free-will offering. Mr. Davies thought that a very good plan. They would send the question round and see what could be done. It was his intention to give 100*l.* (but independent of the parish) together with paying the architect's bill, which, according to 5 per cent. on the outlay would be less than 40*l.*, but just to make a beginning he would put his name down again for 20*l.* Mr. Davies then asked who came next. The question was sent round and was cheerfully and liberally responded to by all present. 200*l.* was collected. Four gentlemen were appointed to solicit subscriptions from parishioners not present. In that visit “they were astonished at the hearty reception they met with.” On the whole, 350*l.* was thus subscribed. Could not the poor parishes of England and Wales raise money for church repairs as easily as Llawhaden?

THE CHURCH DEFENCE MOVEMENT.

Archdeacon Denison writes to the *Morning Post* recommending the supporters of Church-rates to lose no time in getting up petitions against the proposed abolition of the impost. He suggests that “two petitions, each in duplicate, be circulated in every parish—one for the rate-payers, praying that the union of Church and State as assailed in the assault upon Church-rates be maintained inviolate; the other for the poor, praying that their right to worship free of cost in their parish church as provided to them by Church-rate, be maintained inviolate.” The Venerable gentleman adds:—“The number of petitions would thus be doubled, and the signatures increased in a much larger proportion. I have made a trial of what I recommend, and with entire success.”

Last week there was a meeting of the Bath Church Defence Association. A Mr. FIELD pointed with satisfaction to the fact that on the Church-rate question, High, Low, and Broad Church had all shaken hands. He contended that the Church of England was emphatically the poor man's Church, and remarked that Dissenters must have very peculiar consciences if they were hurt at being called upon to help in providing religious instruction for the poor. On the subject of Church-rates, he urged that there should be no compromise, for if the principle was given up, the idea of an Established Church might as well be given up altogether. Dr. Tunstall seconded the resolution, remarking that Church-rates were based on the common law of the land, which recognised the obligation of every parish to sustain the worship of God therein. The second resolution expressed the desirability of entering into communication with influential friends and other societies, with a view to the presentation of petitions to the House of Commons, praying for a Committee on the subject of Church-rates, which should devise such an adjustment of the question as would not compromise the rights of the Established Church.

The *Western Times* contains an amusing account of “a hole-and-corner meeting” at Newton Abbot of the clergy of the Rural Deanery of Ipplepen, comprising thirty-six parishes, held for the purpose of forming a committee of management, to be designated the executive body of the association, to be composed of all the clergy of the deanery, and an equal number of “Lay Consultees.” The clergy of the deanery were declared *ex-officio* members of the committee, and a number of “Lay Consultees” were appointed. Subsequently the Chairman (Rev. H. Martin) introduced the question of Church-rates, saying that he had received a draft of a petition from Archdeacon Downall, which he would read to them:—

That your petitioners believe the union of Church and State to be the very principle and basis of the English Constitution. That your petitioners are persuaded that the abolition of Church-rates would greatly promote the severance of the Church from the State. That your

petitioners believe the National Church, with its parochial system, to be the best means that can be devised for securing the administration of religion among all sorts and conditions of men throughout the land. That your petitioners therefore pray your honourable house to adopt such measures as will sustain the fabrics of the parish church, and furnish all things necessary for the performance of Divine worship, by enacting a law which shall define the rule on which the Church-rate assessment shall be founded, devise means to collect that assessment, and provide an expeditious and cheap mode of recovering the rate.

The Rev. Dr. HARRIS said the bishop, he knew, was disposed to give a little more latitude than was given in the petition just read, and he was very much disposed to agree with him. The petition of the Archdeacon would provide not only for the fabric, but also that which was necessary for the performance of Divine service. He confessed, however, that he for one, should be quite willing to accept a compromise, and get a Church-rate that would secure the maintenance of the fabric, leaving the things necessary for the maintenance of Divine worship to be provided for by the congregations. Mr. ROBINSON agreed very much with the Rev. Dr. Harris, but he would advocate the circulation of several petitions, because different views were held on the Church-rate question by Churchmen, and what would be signed by one would not be signed by another. The CHAIRMAN said the Church Institution sent out different forms, leaving the clergy in the different parishes to select which they pleased. Mr. ROBINSON said he had no less than five from the committee in London. The Rev. J. BOWDEN said it seemed to him that it would be better to adopt the modified form of petition, as prepared by the bishop. The CHAIRMAN: I saw Barnes (the bishop's secretary) the day before yesterday, and he said I may expect to receive the bishop's petition in a day or two. Barnes read me a draft a week or two ago, but I think the bishop has altered it. The Rev. J. BOWDEN had heard the petition in question read, and he believed it had some reference to the relief of Dissenters, and bore more particularly on the maintenance of the fabric of the Church. Mr. ROBINSON then moved:—

That this meeting, considering the great importance of continued resistance to the attempt to abolish Church-rates, strongly recommends the clergy and churchwardens of the several parishes in this rural deanery to prepare, without delay, petitions for presentation to Parliament against such abolition.

The Rev. J. BOWDEN seconded the motion, and it was carried. A resolution was then proposed by Mr. SHEPPARD, and seconded by Mr. WATTS, to the effect that a certain number of petitions should be sent out by the association, so that the different parishes might take their choice of them. The motion having been carried, the meeting separated.

SALE OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE RECTORY OF SHELFANGER.

(From the *Norfolk News*.)

The right of next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger was sold at Garraway's coffee-house, Change-alley, Cornhill, on Wednesday last, by Mr. Clark, of the firm of Farebrother, Clark and Lye. There were between twenty and thirty persons present.

The auctioneer, in offering the property, said:—It is not my intention, gentlemen, to read to you the conditions of sale. They have been published with the particulars. If there should be any question that you think necessary to ask, I shall be happy to give you any information in my power. If there be no question upon the conditions, I shall proceed to read to you the description, which is, “The right of next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger, in the diocese of Norwich, situate about two miles from the town of Diss, subject to the life of the present incumbent.” There is a residence containing five bed-rooms, parlour, two kitchens, dairy, and the necessary out-buildings, and about forty acres of glebe land. The age of the incumbent is based upon a minute in the possession of the vendors, obtained in 1816, in reference to the rector, by which his age was then stated to be forty-five. The incumbent informed me that he was born on Easter-day, which occurred about 1770. On reference to the old prayer-books of that period I found that Easter-day occurred on the day mentioned in the year 1771, and did not occur again till the year 1783, nor again till 1795; therefore there is no doubt that he was born on the 13th of March, 1771. That is the day he always puts it at himself, and no doubt it is correct. The population of the parish is about 500; the duty is double, morning and afternoon. The residence, as of course those of you who have been down to see it are aware, is one which perhaps in these times would hardly be sufficient for a gentleman having an income of 500*l.* or 600*l.* a year. Nevertheless, with a very little outlay it could be made very comfortable; and as regards dilapidation, about which I heard a good deal before I went down, I may state that there is none, but the house for its age is in a very good state of repair. With reference to the church, the church is very old, and the chancel is very old of course; but it is in a very good condition, except from the recent snow, and I think perhaps 5*l.* will repair the whole of the building. Now we sell to you the absolute right of the next presentation to the rectory of Shelfanger, and the question, of course, is what it may be worth? I was very much struck when I saw Mr. Morris yesterday. The first question almost that he put to me was, “I suppose you have come down to see when I am going to die? There have been gentlemen for the last four or five years

Visiting me about every five or six weeks, and at last, all I did was to show my nose at the top of the stairs, and say that I was engaged." "Well," I said to him, "I have really come down for no such purpose, for it is no part of my duty to say when you are going to die; but, of course, having arrived at your age, beyond the ordinary age of man, you cannot be expected to live very long. All I shall state to-morrow will be that which I always do state, that one can only take the age of the incumbent according to the present duration of life, the same as the insurance offices do." Therefore, as to this gentleman being in good health or bad health, and whether he is likely to live a long time or a short time, you will have no observation from me. I can only say, that his age is ninety, and it is impossible to say whether he will live one year or five years. Probably his life is worth from one year to a year and a half's purchase according to the tables. Now, to arrive at the value of the next presentation, we should consider what would be the value of a life of thirty, supposing that to be the age of the gentleman to be presented with a net income from this living approaching 577*l.* a year. Well, if you have all the appliances to a living, beautiful house, beautiful grounds, a lovely district, excellent society, and in the proximity of a cathedral town or the metropolis, there will be no difficulty at all in realising some sixteen years' purchase for this life-interest, less, of course, the purchase of a life of ninety; but, unfortunately this living does not possess these advantages; first, the house not being very good; next, it being some distance removed from town, although you have the advantage of being but a very short distance from the cathedral city of Norwich, and you are in a beautiful country: and perhaps this is one of the prettiest parts of it, for Shelfanger stands high and dry, and not far from the market town of Diss. It is true there is not much society, for the society appears to lie on the other side of the town of Diss, not so much upon this side of it, but under the circumstances, a living of this kind is probably worth 4,800*l.* or 5,000*l.* This is my idea. I have not said a word as to whether you will have the presentation to-morrow, or not for the next ten years; I can only say that the incumbent is at the advanced age of ninety, and you may calculate that any day it may fall in, or it may not fall in for three or four years, but the tables give you for his life about a year and a half's purchase. Having told you the value, I will now collect your biddings. We have come here to-day to sell it; it will be for you to determine on the fall of the hammer whether it shall be 5,000*l.* or 4,800*l.* or 4,700*l.* or 4,500*l.* or 4,000*l.* or 3,500*l.* I am in your hands, gentlemen; shall I say 3,000*l.* or 2,500*l.* or 2,400*l.* or 2,300*l.* or 2,200*l.?*

Bids from 2,000*l.* to 2,500*l.?*

The Auctioneer: 2,500*l.* is bid for the next presentation for the rectory of Shelfanger. The income is approaching 500*l.* a-year, without making allowance for a curate. Of course, with a population of this kind, the incumbent is not bound by the bishop to provide a curate, but it is fair to deduct 100*l.* for a curate. Supposing the incumbent does the duty himself, that will leave 450*l.* a-year, being about four-and-a-half years' purchase for what you may in ordinary cases call a thirty years' tenure.

2,600*l.* and 2,700*l.* were then bid.

The Auctioneer: You are in an agricultural district, surrounded by yeomen farmers of great respectability—tithes easily collected. You are liked very much in the district; your duties are not very burdensome; that as regards the house, if any one who has it think it is not good enough, he has only to borrow the money from Queen Anne's bounty, the payment of which will extend over thirty years. I believe an estimate was made to build a nice rectory house, from designs which I saw, for about 600*l.* Any one desirous of putting a son into the Church will find this an opportunity that is not likely to occur again soon. It is not often that you get the offer of a living with an incumbent at this advanced age, and when a *locum tenens* is put in it is generally said that he lives longest. But that is not the case in the present instance. The gentleman has had the enjoyment of the living for many years, and is now at an advanced period of life; and in the course of a very few years this living will fall into the possession of the purchaser.

2,800*l.* was then bid.

The Auctioneer: Of course, gentlemen, if it is your intention that this living should be sacrificed, it must be so, for bear in mind that the price that is now offered for it does not at all represent the value. There will be no one to direct you; the living will be your own. The question is whether an income like this of 420*l.* a-year, in a beautiful part of the county of Norfolk, is to be given away for the sum of 2,800*l.!* Now, gentlemen, is it your pleasure to advance upon this bidding? You may buy bushels of incomes, but they are what I call "starvation" incomes, not at all suitable for gentlemen who have had a college education, and upon whose education their fathers have spent some thousands of pounds, and it is not sufficient to place them in the position in which gentlemen ought to be placed. But here you have an income of 500*l.* or 600*l.* ample means in an agricultural district, and with the prospect of an immediate possession. I cannot understand anything like this being sold for 2,800*l.* Is it your pleasure, gentlemen, to increase? Let me impress this upon you all; because do not go away with the imagination that this is brought here by trustees to test its value, and not to be sold. I assure you that on the fall of the hammer it will actually be sold; and unless you increase the bidding it will be sold for 2,800*l.*

There being no other bidder the property was sold for 2,800*l.* The name of the purchaser did not transpire.

THE CLERGY OF LONDON AND RATIONALISM IN THE CHURCH.

The *Record* publishes a brief outline of a private meeting of the City of London clergy, held on Thursday last at Sion College, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent attacks made on the authority of the Bible and the doctrines of Christianity, by clergymen holding high offices in the Universities and the public schools of England." In the first instance, the Rev. Dr. Rowsell, recently appointed to succeed the Dean of Ripon in St. Margaret's Rectory, rose and protested against the summons for the convocation of the London clergy, as implying a libel on the clergymen, whom it charged with infidelity. He admitted that as no names were mentioned, it could not be accounted actually libellous, but that had the names of the seven Essayists and Reviewers been stated, it would have been actionable at law. It was replied to Dr. Rowsell that the transaction was one between the clergy and their bishop, and that such communications were privileged. But Dr. Rowsell was not satisfied, and left the meeting, being followed by two junior clergymen, one of them lately appointed to a living in the east of London. After the retirement of Dr. Rowsell the proceedings were conducted in a spirit of singular unanimity, the clergy being apparently of one mind as to the gravity of the present crisis, and the necessity of making a decided protest against the attempts made to reduce the Bible to the position described in such exalting terms by the *Westminster Review*, "when the public once begin to read their Bibles in the spirit" of the Essayists, "they will soon cease to read them at all, and the Hebrew Scriptures will take their place on the bookshelf of the learned beside the Arabian and Sanskrit poets;" and when "the simple believer must find all the bases of his creed undermined, the whole external authority on which it rests swept away, and the mysterious book of truth shall fade into an old collection of poetry and legend, and the scheme of redemption in which he has been taught to live and die, turns out to be a demoralising invention of men."

An address to the Bishop of London was then moved by the Rev. D. M'Caul, and seconded by the Rev. E. Auriol, in which his lordship's attention is called to the peril of the crisis, and to the necessity of some action being taken by the rulers of the Church if we are to stem the tide of infidelity which is now setting in, and which is all the more dangerous because no longer proceeding from open enemies, but from those who profess their assent and consent to the Articles of the Church of England, and have obtained official sway over the education of youth by positions of influence which they hold in important educational institutions.

The Rev. W. Scott expressed his general assent to the views expressed in Dr. M'Caul's address, but suggested another which he thought would more certainly secure unanimity. After a good deal of discussion Mr. Scott's address was adopted, after some of the clauses in Dr. M'Caul's address had been imported into it. The result was that the clergy present, without one dissentient voice, have carried an address to the bishop condemning the *Essays and Reviews*, and have appointed a deputation to wait on his lordship to request him to fix a day for its presentation.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE AND BARON BUNSEN.

At a recent meeting of the Evangelical Alliance the following resolution of condolence with the bereaved family of the late Baron Bunsen was adopted:—

Resolved.—That this committee have heard with deep and sincere regret of the death of that distinguished Christian statesman and that man of letters, the Baron de Bunsen, and desire the chairman to communicate to his bereaved family their heartfelt sympathy in their affliction. Without expressing their concurrence in all the theological views of Baron de Bunsen, the committee would express their sense of the personal excellency in all the relations of life of that distinguished man, and of the warm affection which he at all times manifested towards the true servants of God, of every sect and nation.

The committee would also record their grateful recollection of the deep interest which the deceased Baron took in the Berlin Conference of 1857, and the readiness with which he responded to the call of his sovereign, the King of Prussia, to be present on that occasion.

Upon the publication of this resolution the Rev. T. R. Birks addressed a strong letter of censure to a public journal. Sir Culling Eardley, in a subsequent letter to Mr. Birks, justifies the resolution adopted by the Alliance. He says:—

The minute was purposely so worded as to avoid committing as to objectionable views contained in Baron de Bunsen's critical works.

The Alliance had found him an ever ready friend of religious liberty, to whom we never appealed in vain, in his public capacity, to obtain redress for grievances; he came, too, at the summons of the King of Prussia, to Berlin in 1857, to be present at the Conference; and though he was not, and consistently with some of his opinions could not be, a member of the Alliance, he did there in the most public manner evince his sympathy with, and love towards the assembled Evangelical party of Christendom.

I say we were justified as a body in paying a tribute of respect to such a man. We said nothing of him as a teacher; and there was not one of us who would have consented to do so. We said nothing of his possessing saving faith, though, for one, I entertain the confident belief, founded mainly on the information of others, but partly also on my own limited intercourse with him, that Baron de Bunsen, with all his serious intellectual errors (for such I deem them), was a child of God resting

upon his Saviour's cross. But what we did say was, that he was a man of personal excellence in the relations of life, and a Christian statesman.

By that expression I am prepared to stand. If you will ask the diplomatic body of London, many of whom would naturally dislike his doing so, they would tell you that no public man ever more thoroughly carried publicly avowed Christian motives into public life. And surely no one who, like yourself, is prepared to call any sovereign who may come to the throne of England, "religious and gracious," can object, *à fortiori*, to our calling such a man as Baron de Bunsen a Christian statesman. There is a very clear and definite sense in which, even apart from personal piety, public characters who strive to rule their lives by Christian principle are entitled to that epithet.

The *Record* expresses great dissatisfaction with Sir Culling Eardley's explanation and with the resolution of the Evangelical Alliance.

OATHS IN COURTS OF JUSTICE.

IMPRISONMENT FOR REFUSING TO TAKE OATH.—At the Halifax Borough Court on Friday, a man named John Howard, a pauper, was brought up by an assistant overseer to give evidence with a view to his removal from the Halifax workhouse to his own parish in London. He refused to be sworn, stating that he did not want to be removed to London, as he had no friends there; besides, he was an atheist, and consequently his oath would not be accepted. The bench informed him that if he refused to give evidence he would be committed to prison. Howard then said, "I don't belong to any religion; I am an atheist, and was brought up one." The bench at once committed him to the House of Correction for fourteen days, under the act 7 & 8 Vic. c. 191, sec. 70, which says, "If any person, coming or brought before any such justices in any such proceedings, refuse to give evidence thereon, such justices may commit him to the House of Correction for any time not exceeding fourteen days, or until he shall submit himself to be examined; and, in case of such submission, the order of any such justice shall be a sufficient warrant for his discharge." Before the rising of the court, he sent word from the cell that he was willing to give evidence. He did so, and was liberated.—*Manchester Examiner*.

REFUSAL OF THE OATH OF A SECULARIST AT ROCHDALE.—Some time since, in the County Court, Rochdale, the cause of Maden and Wife v. Catanach being called, the only witness put forward was Mrs. Maden, who, being questioned thereupon, avowed her disbelief in God or a future state, whereupon the judge refused her evidence, and nonsuited the plaintiff. The Secularists have made considerable stir in this matter, and lecturers have locally capitalised the event. Subscriptions, too, have been got up in favour of Mrs. Maden, and a determination was come to that an application should be made to set aside the nonsuit. Accordingly Mr. Cranfurd, M.P., on Wednesday made an application to his Honour (C. Temple, Esq.) at the sitting of the Court. The learned counsel urged the question of the incompetency of witnesses on account of opinions entertained by them had not been settled by the Courts, yet it had been presumptively held that all evidence should be rejected, if the witness disavowed a belief in a Deity or a future state. He submitted that this dictum had not received the approval of the superior courts, and quoted several cases to support his view that it was sufficient to administer any oath, or affirmation or declaration, most binding on the conscience. Mr. Cranfurd further contended that the oath was a common law form, and urged that the common law was elastic, and that judges should mould it to circumstances. The learned gentleman also quoted a note on the subject in "Taylor on Evidence," and concluded a long argument by asking his Honour to set aside the nonsuit. He then put in the affidavit of Joseph White, reporter, as to what transpired at the hearing. His Honour gave a rather lengthy decision, the pith of which was that he was not a legislator but an administrator of the law; that as he found the law it was his duty and effort to administer it; and that finding the oath compulsory he had nothing to do but enforce it. He admitted the elastic character of the common law, but believed, and was supported in his opinion by the most eminent judges, that belief in a Deity, the obligation of an oath, and a future state of rewards and punishments, was essential in any person tendering himself or herself as a witness. The application was therefore refused.

THE REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.

The *Freeman* publishes some further interesting information respecting the progress of the revival movement in Jamaica. The Rev. J. E. Henderson, writing from the Baptist Mission House, says:—"Since the appeal on behalf of Jamaica, which appears in another column, was written, the West Indian trials have arrived. The intelligence brought is of the deepest interest. The religious awakening is extending. There are now but few of the stations on the north side of the island unaffected by it, whilst several of those on the south side, and in the interior, have been visited by a gracious influence. Bethel, Hastings, and Falmouth are being greatly blessed. My brother, writing from the first-named place, says, 'Upwards of 150 were smitten down in two days. The people crowded into the chapel on Sabbath morning, and I could not get them away again until six o'clock on Tuesday evening. We have been up night and day. Oh, it is a glorious time! but I fear some of us will fall from overwork and excitement, though to work now is indeed delightful. I start at midnight for Montego Bay.' From that place he writes:—'I am at

the Bay; I find the barber's shop (a low dancing-saloon) is converted into a house of prayer. W— and his son (the proprietors) have broken their fiddles, and come to Christ. The police-station is opened for prayer-meetings, and all ministers in the town are being greatly blessed. Do come out by packet, and leave your wife and children to follow, or you will regret it.'

"Mrs. Sibley writes:—'My husband has requested me to write to you. He cannot get time to do so. He had two glorious days at Watford Hill on Saturday and Sunday last. More than 250 have been enrolled as inquirers, and are deeply anxious concerning their souls. At Gurney's Mount and Mount Peto the numbers are almost as large.'

"The Rev. G. Milliner writes:—'Never have I witnessed anything like what I have been privileged to witness during the last two weeks. I am almost worn out with my labours at Bethsalem and Wallingford. Nothing but prayer and hearing the Word will satisfy the people. I am engaged in two or more public services every day, with large and attentive congregations. The work assumes many of the characteristics of the Irish revival. There are similar physical prostrations, loud and piercing cries for mercy, confessions of sin, and, as far as I can learn, a total abandonment of iniquity. An overseer, who sees nothing but superstition in the movement, frankly admitted that he has heard no swearing or bad language since the revival commenced on that estate, about six weeks ago. A beershop-keeper in the neighbourhood of Wallingford tells me he does not sell one-fifteenth part of what he did before men began to pray; indeed, he could not prevail on any one to take it even for nothing, and the fiddler would not be prevailed on to play as formerly in the market on Saturdays. One man has burnt his drum, and destroyed everything he bought for the "John Canoeing" at Christmas time. Bibles and hymn-books are sought after, and there is general desire to seek God in the ordinances of His house. All this, and much more, fully satisfies me that it is a genuine work of grace. I am out almost every day, indeed I sometimes do not return home for days, only for a few hours, and then am sent for by a messenger again. I have had intimation that a large number of anxious ones are coming to me to-day from a distance. We have not now quite so much excitement as at first, but I have reason to hope that the good work is still progressing in our midst. There is an urgent demand for religious services, and we always have large and attentive congregations. Several of our members are indefatigable in their exertions to do good. I have reason to believe that there is not only a general awakening among the ungodly, but also a real revival in the Church. This is seen in their spirituality of mind, devotedness to God's service, and fervent prayers at the Throne of Grace.'

WESLEYANS AND CHURCH-RATES.—At the Wesleyan Reform District Meeting, held in the chapel, Peckover-street, Bradford, on Wednesday, January 23rd, 1861, it was resolved unanimously, on the motion of the Rev. John Hanson, seconded by the Rev. William Whitely, "That the District Meeting, with the best feeling toward the ministers and members of the Church of England as fellow disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, regards the impost of Church-rates as contrary to the rule of equity prescribed by the Head of the Churches—'All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them,'—and hopes that Parliament in its next session will take decided steps to abolish Church-rates as levied by law in these realms."

THE CANONS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The *Record* describes the Canons as "little better than ecclesiastical rubbish, whose only effect is to disfigure the Church, of which indeed she were well rid, and the sooner the better!"

ELECTION OF RECTOR OF LINCOLN COLLEGE.—The election of a rector of Lincoln College, in the room of the late Dr. Thompson, which has excited so much interest, not only in the University, but generally amongst Oxford men throughout the country, took place on Friday, when the Rev. Mark Pattison, B.D., fellow and formerly tutor of Lincoln College, was elected. The Rev. R. Michell, formerly fellow of Lincoln College, public orator and vice-principal of Magdalen Hall, and the Rev. Thomas Fowler, sub-rector of Lincoln College, were also candidates. The fellows, nine in number, who had the right of giving a vote, elected Mr. Pattison on the first ballot, but as it appeared that he had not a clear majority, the third on the list was struck off, and eventually Mr. Pattison won by five to four. Mr. Pattison is the author of one of the celebrated "Essays and Reviews."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY AND THE HINDUSTANI BIBLE.—Some time since it was announced that the committee of the Bible Society had pledged themselves to print for the use of Europeans and natives in India, an edition of 30,000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms in Romanised Hindustani, and a folio edition of the entire Bible, with copious references. This pledge is now redeemed, and a specimen of the principal work, the Folio Reference Bible, is before us in the shape of a handsome volume, printed in clear, transparent, readable English type. The Hindustani Reference Bible (the first complete work of the kind ever printed) is the result of a careful collation of various versions with the choice idioms of this native MS. translation. The editor

to whom the duty of revision has been entrusted is the Rev. R. C. Mather, a well-known missionary, whose learning and Christian character marked him out as eminently qualified for the task, and we believe he has been assisted in his editorial work by his son, Professor Cotton Mather, of Addiscombe College.—*Times*.

THE ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES AS VIEWED BY A CHURCHMAN.—A correspondent of the *Guardian* says of its schemes for compromising the Church-rate question what the Dissenters say of them, — that they come "too late." With abolition, he says, there will be "some risk, but much certain good." This good he explains would consist in the ability to use church vestries as church organisations. He would make admissions to vestry dependent on money contributions to the Church. Thus he says:—

We should almost shame men into being Churchmen, at least, so far as to pay something for the place where they were married and buried. The vestry would be an approach to a church brotherhood, capable of being summoned to consider the interests of the Church. In many cases it would exercise the office of the original diaconate. The fear is that the clergyman would in many places find the whole burden of Church-rates put on him if the farmers are relieved legally. I do not think this would often be the case. Then some cannot bear the injustice of relieving the land. How we do strain at a gnat and swallow a camel! Are not the landowner-patrons rapidly pocketing far the greater part of the tithes practically, by selling their presentations and advowsons?

BIBLE FOR GARIBALDI.—The Rev. Mr. Renton (says the *Kelso Chronicle*) intimated to his congregation on Sabbath week that it was proposed by the Council of the Evangelical Alliance to present a splendid copy of Bagster's Polyglot Bible, in eight languages, folio, to the illustrious liberator—to raise a fund for this purpose by shilling subscriptions—and to devote all the surplus, after paying expenses, to furnish copies of the New Testament for the army of Italy; and he invited all who took an interest in the object to hand him their subscriptions after public worship next Sabbath. Accordingly a number did so last Sabbath, and we understand the sum amounted to between five or six pounds. As illustrating the fame of Garibaldi, and the interest with which he is regarded by the young as well as the old, we may mention that one day last week a boy about nine or ten years old was presented by a friend with a shilling, and on being asked what he meant to do with it, replied, "I'll give it to Garibaldi," and he accordingly cheerfully handed it in on Sabbath last.

MR. BRIGHT ON EASTER-DUES.—Mr. Bright, M.P., has forwarded a letter to the association formed at Accrington in opposition to the collection of Easter-dues. Mr. Bright says:—"It is amazing that any clergyman, in our day, should attempt to continue an exactation so unjust and so odious, but I hope the spirit of your district will resist it to the utmost of their power. I do not know what chance there is that Parliament will grant you any relief. Parliament is unwilling to touch the Church in any of its ancient rights or wrongs. There is, however, one remedy left, and that is a passive resistance to the injustice sought to be inflicted on you; and this may be employed with effect if you have an association that will support those who are attacked by the clergyman and the law. Perhaps it would be wise to take the matter to a higher tribunal. It would create a greater public interest in the question, and might force Parliament to interfere. If you could prevail on either of your county members to introduce a bill to remedy the grievance it would do good. I should be glad to give it any support in my power."

CARDINAL WISEMAN AND THE POPE.—The *Saturday Review*, after stating that Mr. Pope Hennessy, M.P., has arrived in Rome as the bearer of papers conveying a pledge on the part of the Roman Catholics of the United Kingdom to pay a yearly tribute of one million Roman dollars to the Pope, proceeds to say that Cardinal Wiseman, on the other hand, has written an epistle to the Holy Father, expressing his grief that in spite of the most zealous efforts to exact contributions, he has met with very imperfect success. The cardinal states that he has received everywhere plentiful assurances of readiness to contribute towards the support of the Pope's spiritual dignity, but strong expressions of indisposition to expend money upon armaments for the political enthrallment of his subjects. A conscientious sense of duty has accordingly impelled Cardinal Wiseman to represent to his Holiness that the Catholics in this kingdom cannot be brought to support the Pope in his struggle for temporal power in the manner that might have been hoped; that the majority have been unfortunately infected with the peculiar political notions current in this country, and that he finds himself bound respectfully to tender to his Holiness the melancholy advice that his interests, in the sad condition of affairs, would be best consulted by coming to an understanding with Victor Emmanuel.

REFUSAL OF A CLERGYMAN TO SOLEMNISE A MARRIAGE.—A party gave the usual notice to the Superintendent Registrar of the Bangor and Beaumaris Union to be married at a parish church of Llangadwaladr, Anglesey, and after the expiration of twenty-one days a certificate was obtained to prove that the requirements of the statute had been complied with. All persons desirous of being married, upon giving notice of their intention, have the privilege of having the marriage solemnised either at the register-office, a registered place of worship, or a parish church within the union in which they are residing. On presenting themselves at the proper time to the rector of Llangadwaladr,

that gentleman refused to solemnise the marriage on the ground that the notice had been given at the register-office, and that the system was only intended for Dissenters. Great disappointment and inconvenience was caused by this extraordinary proceeding, and considerable surprise was expressed by the friends and neighbours of the parties, who had to apply again to the Superintendent Register for a license, and they were ultimately married at the Register-office, Bangor, which entailed an extra and unnecessary expense of upwards of 2*l.* The case has been submitted to the Registrar-General, who will, no doubt, take the necessary steps to protect the public from the recurrence of such a wanton disregard of the feelings of the Dissenting community.—*Carnarvon Herald*.

THE STATE CHURCH AS THE UPHOLDER OF A PURE FAITH.—In an article on the "Essays and Reviews" the *Norfolk News* says:—

We should like to see a thorough, earnest, Evangelical Churchman read these essays, and when he has finished, we should like to see a High Churchman of the Pusey school take the volume up and go right through it. Imagination is unable to conceive the height of indignation or estimate the depth of sorrow, to which a sensitive, conscientious man of either extreme would be borne, were he carefully to read these pages. When most painfully and indignantly moved, we would ask such to reflect, that these writers which disgust or grieve them are members of their own Church, are subject to the Act of Uniformity, have subscribed the Thirty-nine Articles, have assented without reserve to all things in the Book of Common Prayer, have called the Bible "the Word of God," have publicly read the beautiful Liturgy, with its devout and most orthodox effusions, that most of them hold high and influential appointments, that one of them (Dr. Williams) is the Vice-Principal of a College training clergy for the Principality, that another (Dr. Temple) is Chaplain-in-ordinary to the Queen, and that most, if not all of them, are maintained wholly, or in part, out of national endowments. Having so reflected, they cannot hesitate to admit that it is impossible for the Church to keep up its pretence of uniformity by legislative enactment or articulation subscription, whilst diverse discordant and heretical utterances arise not only from within its pale, but from its very fountain-head of learning.

STATE-CHURCHISM UNSCRIPTURAL.—A lecture on this subject was delivered in the Exchange Assembly-room, on Thursday evening, by the Rev. Dr. Acworth. The room was crowded to excess, numbers not being able to obtain seats. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alderman Brown, and upon and round the platform were the Revs. Dr. Fraser, J. G. Miall, Professor Creak, Professor Green, W. Thomas, H. Dowson, A. Russell, M.A., B. Wood; Messrs. J. Priestman, E. Kenion, B. Harrison, Councillor Binnis, Councillor Stephenson, A. Illingworth, R. Yates, S. Scott, &c. The report of the lecture occupies nearly three columns of the *Bradford Review*, and we are sorry that the demand upon our space prevents us from quoting from it. Dr. Acworth sat down amid loud and prolonged applause. Subsequently Mr. E. Kenion moved the following resolution:—

That it is the opinion of this meeting that an immense majority of the people of the United Kingdom are in favour of a total abolition of Church-rates—that the will of the people is consequently embodied on this question in the measure repeatedly introduced into Parliament by Sir John Trelawny, and again and again affirmed by the vote of the House of Commons,—and that the consummation of the nation's wish so unmistakably expressed, cannot be long delayed. That this meeting begs to record its satisfaction with the constancy with which both the members for the borough of Bradford have thus far redeemed the pledges given by them respectively to their constituents, on the subject of Church-rates, and confidently trust that on every occasion presented to them during the ensuing session, they will be found prepared to resist all measures intended merely to compromise a settlement of this question, and will adhere to the practice they have hitherto pursued of voting in favour of the principle included in the bill successfully carried through the House of Commons by Sir John Trelawny during the last session of Parliament.

It was rumoured, he said, that a Church-rate would be levied in some form or other in every parish in the United Kingdom. The Liberation Society wished to know the feeling in Bradford on the question, and it was intended that both our members should be supported in their votes against any bill that might be brought into Parliament for the purpose of compromising. He trusted that by a unanimous vote on this resolution the meeting would show that the Dissenters of Bradford would not degrade themselves by any compromise. Mr. A. Illingworth seconded the resolution, and it was put and carried with only one dissentient. The Rev. Dr. Fraser moved, and the Rev. B. Wood seconded, the vote of thanks to Dr. Acworth, who, in acknowledging the compliment, alluded to the announcement of a lecture by the Rev. Dr. Hume, on "The insufficiency of Dissent to provide for the religious wants of this great country," and asked how such a subject could require discussion? If he had announced that the voluntary principle was insufficient, then he (Dr. Acworth) could have understood it. He admired the late movements of the Church party in Bradford. Their exertions were worthy of all praise, but, he might ask, have they not taken a leaf out of their (the Dissenters') book? They were building ten churches, but at whose expense? Not at the expense of the State, but purely on the voluntary principle. Let them adhere to this principle, and they would soon cover the length and breadth of the land with pure churches and Christian teachers. Professor Creak moved, and the Rev. W. Thomas seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was suitably responded to, and the meeting separated.

THE "JOHN WILLIAMS" MISSIONARY SHIP.—By a vessel which arrived at Falmouth on the 22nd inst., a letter has been received from the Rev. George Morris, on board the missionary ship John Williams, in which he says:—"December 29.—All well. We hope to cross the line to-day."

Religious Intelligence.

LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.

The anniversary of this society was celebrated on Tuesday evening, the 22nd inst., at the Congregational Library, Bloomsbury-street, by a soirée and public meeting. An hour having been spent in the partaking of tea and in social converse, Eusebius Smith, Esq., the President of the Society, took the chair, and the proceedings were commenced with a devotional service—the Rev. Mr. Hitchins offering prayer.

The Chairman, in addressing the meeting, said, the experience of another year, in reference to the work of chapel extension, had only tended to deepen the conviction of the committee as to the vast importance of the work in which they were engaged. The committee of the London Congregational Chapel-Building Society had employed its resources in relation to nineteen distinct places of worship in the metropolis, to which contributions of a larger or less amount had been voted or paid. One very gratifying feature of the chapel-building operations of the present day—a feature doubtless attributable, in some degree, to the influence of this society—was the circumstance, that it was no longer a singular thing for chapels in London to be built and paid for at the very threshold. (Cheers.) During the past year, in six instances, the grant voted by the society had completed the payment of every claim upon the respective chapels. (Hear, hear.) The experience of the society in relation to places of worship had of course been of a varied character, but it had pleased God to give them many extraordinary instances of what he might call prompt success. Amongst those instances might be mentioned the cause at Battlebridge. The devoted pastor of that church, the Rev. Mr. Ingram, in a letter addressed to him (the Chairman), had been enabled to report the most gratifying results as having flowed from his labours, aided by those of his zealous church, during the two and a-quarter years he had ministered in that locality. That chapel had been built some years ago by Mr. Seavil, who, however, was not permitted, in the providence of God, to succeed to the extent of his desire, and was led to withdraw from his charge. The result was that the committee of this society purchased the property to prevent it going away from the denomination. Mr. Ingram commenced his labours in September, 1858, and during the past twelve months 100 persons had been received into church fellowship, making a total of 250 members, whilst the Sabbath-school numbered 600 children. To that chapel the committee had granted a loan of 300*l.*, which the congregation was now paying off by instalments. Such gratifying results could not perhaps be expected in every instance, but the society had every reason to be grateful for the evidences it had constantly received of the Divine favour. He had observed in one of the denominational papers a statement of facts in relation to chapel-building which both surprised and delighted him. From that statement it appeared that in 1801 the provision made by the Church of England for public worship included about four millions of sittings, whilst that made by Nonconformists of all denominations numbered only one million. In 1851, after the lapse of half-a-century, it appeared that the Establishment during that period had added one and a-quarter millions of sittings to that number, making a total of about five and a-quarter millions of sittings, whilst the Nonconformist bodies during the same time had increased their sittings by nearly four millions, making the numbers nearly equal. The writer of the statement then inquired as to the results obtained during the last ten years, by the Congregational body, and he (the Chairman) was surprised to find that the number of places erected by that body all over the country during the years 1856 to 1859 inclusive, was 176, or an average of forty-four per year, or nearly one per week, and that in 1859 the number erected was seventy, or nearly three in every fortnight. (Cheers.) That was to him a deeply interesting and important fact, and it seemed to show that the importance of chapel-building had taken a deep hold upon the Congregational body. All the society had now to do, was to go on impregnating the public mind with the necessity, the importance, and the blessedness of the work. Who could dwell upon the fact of chapels being added to one denomination in one year without a thrilling emotion of delight? How blessed it was to multiply that number or even half that number by such results as had been obtained through the instrumentality of his friend Mr. Ingram.

The Rev. CHARLES GILBERT read the report. After setting forth the great and increasing necessity for the supply of Church and Chapel accommodation in the metropolis, the report stated that places of worship in the following places have engaged the attention of the Committee during the past year:—Battlebridge, Notting-hill, Potteries, Cheshunt, Chelsea, Crouch End, Deptford, Erith, Hammersmith, Horsleydown, Kilburn, New Peckham, Mile End, New Hampton (a preaching station), Orange-street, Peckham Rise, Sutton, Stoke-Newington, Wandsworth, and Woolwich. The chapels in most of these places appear to be well filled. The report goes on to say:—

The congregational collections have been larger than in any former year, though the annual contributions to the general fund have been less. This was not surprising to the committee, because a loan fund had been raised of 8,927*l.* 7*s.*, and undoubted evidence has been supplied of the value of this fund in promoting the

objects of the society. Help from this source has been highly appreciated, and found very useful; and it was proposed to put forth vigorous efforts to increase this fund. The progress of Chapel extension during the last few years has been most satisfactory. In 1856 there were 37 chapels erected; in 1857, 31; in 1858, 38; and in 1859, 70; being a total of 176 chapels in four years, or a new chapel nearly every week, in connexion with the Congregational body.

From the cash statement it appeared that the congregational collections had been twenty-nine in number, amounting to 374*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*; the total receipts for the year being 5,845*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* There is a considerable balance in hand, but the treasurer explained that the committee were under obligations demanding a much larger sum than is lodged at the bank; and that consequently there must be no diminution in the contributions if even the present operations of the society are to be maintained.

The Revs. Dr. Ferguson, H. B. Ingram, John Nunn, and F. Soden having delivered interesting and impressive speeches.

The Rev. J. H. WILSON said there was one feature of the report to which he would call particular attention. It was stated that in building a new chapel at Chelsea, which cost 6,000*l.*, and towards which the Chapel-Building Society had given 1,000*l.*, the place formerly occupied in the same locality had been sold to the Methodist community. Now he was thankful for what their Methodist brethren had done, and that the locality was not to be deserted, but it did appear to him that, if they valued their own principles as they deserved, they would never abandon the districts in which they had congregations, but work them by missions, chapels, and schools; and surely, if a Christian church and people could afford to spend 6,000*l.* on a new chapel, they could afford to do something for the old. He knew of another case in which a poor district had been left and a splendid new chapel erected some distance away from it, where another denomination also stepped in, and had at that moment a prosperous cause. In a third, it was consistent with his knowledge that the Home Missionary Society had for years supported an agent in a poor district, who had been greatly beloved, but who was now in a new chapel built not far off, the first field being left to others for cultivation. In view of such facts, he found it rather difficult to meet the charge, which had often been made, but which he knew was groundless, that as a denomination they were a middle-class body, and not adapted for aggressive work among the poor. The Chapel-Building Society, no doubt, had nothing to do with these matters in its official capacity, but he did hope that the committee would call attention to the subject when applications for aid were before them by churches removing from one locality to another. He was truly glad to have heard such a report as had been read to them that day, but when 600 or 700 chapels were wanted to give London accommodation for five-eighths of her population, they could not but feel that a great work was before them. It was a startling fact, however, to find that in these days, when so many demands were made for money to do practical work, they should find as much as 8,000*l.* proposed to be laid out on a new chapel and schools, with freehold, in one of the most destitute districts of London; and he would affectionately urge that it was high time they had looked this tendency to expensive building fully in the face. He rejoiced in the good done by the society, and hoped the remarks he had made would be received in the spirit in which they had been offered. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN explained that there were special circumstances connected with the chapel of Chelsea, and that the brethren there had done their best under the circumstances.

The Rev. W. HOOVER also explained the case, and said that, as they had to sell the old property to get quit of a heavy mortgage, they were glad that it had fallen into the hands of their Methodist brethren. They would be able to do far more for the district with their new chapel and schools, which, from various unforeseen causes, had cost more than was expected, than ever they could have done by the old.

In the course of the proceedings it was resolved to have a meeting for special prayer in connexion with the society at the library on that day fortnight, in the evening.

The Rev. JOHN BRAMALL closed the meeting at ten o'clock with prayer.

TESTIMONIAL TO REV. GEORGE SMITH, OF POPLAR.

On Tuesday morning a large number of Congregational ministers and other brethren breakfasted together at the Congregational Library, on the occasion of presenting to the Rev. George Smith, of Poplar, a valuable testimonial, as a memorial of his private worth and in grateful acknowledgment of his services as Secretary of the Congregational Union. The chair was occupied by James Spicer, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN, in a speech alluding to Mr. Smith's great services to the Congregational Union and the denomination, said:—

What we admire in our guest is, that he has not been satisfied merely with the routine duties of his office, but that he has originated new objects of enterprise, and has never shrunk from the extra duties which those new enterprises entailed upon him. Then, also, when the Union was exposed to a season of peril, and serious differences had arisen amongst its members, which threatened a separation from the body, while true as the needle to the pole to his own conviction of Christian

truth, our secretary never made himself a party man, but with consummate tact and prudence held the balance evenly, and showed to all that if any left the Union the cause would not be the partiality or the one-sided conduct of Mr. Smith. (Hear.) It has been the custom in presenting testimonials to do so when a gentleman retires from his office; but we have thought it better to do so in the middle of his course, so that while he is holding on he may have something to look upon that will cheer and give a fresh impetus to his future labours. In making a selection as to the sort of testimonial with which to present Mr. Smith, we were anxious that it might be something that he could hand down to his children, and which should remind them of the high estimation in which their father was held by his fellow-Christian men for his untiring efforts in the cause of God, and with the hope that they would emulate his piety, zeal, and devotedness to the Saviour's cause. There is just one other thing for which we think our guest deserves especial honour; and that is, when we think that in addition to his labours for the Union, and our great societies, and other objects, he should have instructed and kept together in full vigour a large and flourishing church. We cannot but be more than thankful that God sent such a man amongst us. (Applause.) These are a few of the reasons which have induced us to take these steps, and we think they will be fully endorsed by Dr. Ferguson and other gentlemen who are to follow me. Then, addressing Mr. Smith, he said: I have now, on behalf of friends present, as well as for many absent, to present to you this candelabrum and silver salver as an appropriate testimony of our regard, accompanied with the prayer that you may long be spared to look upon it, and to labour in the same glorious cause, and that our Heavenly Father may enable you to do yet greater things for the benefit of His Church and the welfare of your fellow-men. (Applause.)

Mr. Spicer then presented Mr. Smith with a splendid candelabrum and a massive silver salver bearing the following inscription:—

Presented, with a silver candelabrum, to the Rev. George Smith, by a number of his attached friends, in testimony of his manifold labours in connexion with the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and the general interests of evangelical truth and Christian philanthropy.—January, 1861.

Mr. Smith, in rising to return thanks, was received with much applause. After some remarks relative to his connexion with the Congregational Union, he went on to say:—

He was glad that the chairman had referred to his own church. It would have been a poor satisfaction to have found that, while conducting his public and official business so as to meet with the approbation of the churches, he had not been able to attend to the duties of the beloved people who at first brought him to London. But he could truly say that, if God had made him to some extent a keeper of other men's vineyards, He had enabled him at the same time not to neglect his own. (Applause.) He must say also that he was gratified with the kind testimonial they had presented to him, as well as the experience of their Christian affection which it represented. It would be a memorial which would remain in his family, and testify to his beloved wife and children, not only that their father had been enabled to maintain an honourable connexion with the Congregational Union, but that they were connected with a body of Christians who are as generous as they are independent; and that thought of itself might have no small value in its influence on even his children. (Hear, hear.) It would also be a proof to others of the fact that, while the Independents were free and would use their freedom independently, they were also generous, and could testify their generosity with all the fulness of the Christian heart. Reference had been made to the future, and the struggle for religious freedom that were yet before them. Let them come. (Hear.) In the strength of the Lord they would enter on the conflict, and maintain the principles which their fathers had so manfully contended for, and their denomination would year by year become more and more important, while, by the Divine blessing, it would do its full share of the glorious work of saving and regenerating the world. (Applause.)

The Rev. Drs. FERGUSON and TIDMAN bore testimony to Mr. Smith's public services and private worth.

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, although a firm believer in the lay element, had no want of sympathy with the clerical; and when he found both practically blended in their friend Mr. Smith, he could not but unite his congratulations with his brethren on that occasion. He valued Mr. Smith's services as secretary to the Union especially because he had sought to make it a thing of power, and not of mere fraternal intercourse. That of itself was good, but practical work was better; and now that they were not only declaring great principles at their public meetings, but earnestly seeking to carry them out in many of their churches, he did hope that Mr. Smith would be long spared to take his full share of duty, and that he would be greatly blessed in discharging it. He believed that great and stirring events were at hand, for they were living in most eventful times; and it would require all the wisdom and power which they could put forth to carry forward, in the full discharge of their individual responsibilities, those schemes of Christian progress which God had given to bless the world. (Applause.)

Mr. EUSEBIUS SMITH valued the testimonial on personal grounds, for well did Mr. Smith merit such a mark of esteem for his private worth; but he valued it yet more on public grounds, because it was an expression of feeling which showed how highly his public and practical services had been appreciated, and would be an encouragement to himself and others to continue to support such schemes of home evangelisation, of pastoral relief, and of benevolent effort, as those which Mr. Smith had so ably advocated and maintained. (Hear, hear.)

Addressess were also delivered by the Revs. R. Ashton, T. James, W. Bean (of Worthing), Mr. Rowland (of Hanley), Thomas Aveling, J. H.

Wilson, Charles Reed, Esq., and other gentlemen, after which a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the meeting was concluded by praise and prayer.

THE SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—The services at St. Paul's were resumed on Sunday evening. The congregation was very large. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of London, from 1 Pet. ii. 18, 19, "Ye were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ," &c. The subject, therefore, was the doctrine of the atonement. The bishop's treatment of it partook of a controversial character, many of his remarks being directed against the opinions on the subject put forth in the notorious "Essays and Reviews." He contended broadly that the mediatorial death of Christ was the only ground of hope that men possessed of their eternal happiness. It mattered not what men's theories might be upon the manner of the atonement so only that they reposed implicitly upon the Lord Jesus Christ as their only Saviour. Men might be able, he said, to live without this; but die without it they dared not. The preacher made application of his subject to all classes of people specifically, and pointed out that rich and poor stand in this matter on a common level; and he exhorted all alike to accept the mercy freely by their Creator offered to the whole of the human race.—The sermon at Westminster Abbey on Sunday evening, was preached by the Rev. T. H. Mirehouse, who took his text from John xii. 32, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."—The preacher at Exeter Hall on Sunday evening was the Rev. W. Pennefather, Incumbent of Christ Church, Barnet, who took as his text Luko xix. 9, 10, "And Jesus said unto him (Zacchaeus), This day is salvation come to this house," &c. Mr. Wilbraham Taylor, and other gentlemen were on the platform, and the attendance was about 2,200.—The preachers at the theatres were as follows:—Standard, Rev. H. W. Tindall, Curate of Clerkenwell; Victoria, Rev. Hugh Allen, Rector of St. George's, Southwark, and Rev. C. Graham; Pavilion, Rev. R. Parnell, Incumbent of St. Stephen's, Bow; Sadler's Wells, Rev. J. Bailie, Minister of Percy Chapel, and Rev. W. Roberts; Britannia, Rev. W. Gibson. At the St. James's Hall, the Rev. W. Brock preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. W. Landels in the evening.

STOCKPORT.—At the earnest request of his church and congregation, the Rev. E. C. Jay, of Stockport, has withdrawn his resignation.

EAST PARADE CHAPEL, LEEDS.—We announce with much pleasure that the Rev. Eustace R. Couder, M.A., of Poole, Dorset, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Church assembling at East-parade Chapel, to succeed the Rev. H. R. Reynolds, now President of Cheshunt College, as their pastor.—*Leeds Mercury.*

MANCHESTER.—The Rev. E. K. Evans, late of the Lancashire Independent College, has received and accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to supply the pulpit of the Congregational Chapel, Every-street, Manchester, for the next three months, with a view of his becoming the stated minister of the place at the expiration of that time. He commenced his labours on Sunday, Jan. 20.

PORTSMOUTH.—The members of the four Baptist chapels in this neighbourhood met on Sunday, January 20th, for a united communion service, at St. Paul's Chapel, Southsea. Rev. J. Hunt Cooke presided, and the several pastors took part; viz., Rev. J. Davis, of Kent-street, Rev. J. B. Brasted, of Ebenezer, and Rev. H. Kitching, of Landport. It was a very solemn and interesting engagement. A collection was made for Home Mission work in the county, and a Home Mission meeting was held the following evening at Kent-street chapel, when Rev. J. Davis took the chair, and addresses were delivered by Rev. J. Birt, of Beaulieu, Rev. J. B. Little, of Ryde, and the ministers above mentioned.

HITCHIN.—**TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. W. GRIFFITH.**—On Thursday evening week the Rev. William Griffith, the respected pastor of the Congregational Church, Queen-street, was presented by his congregation with a purse of sovereigns, as a mark of their attachment to their minister, and as a token of their high esteem for him as a man. On the previous evening a prayer-meeting, numerously attended, was held, to implore the Divine blessing on the proceedings; and at five o'clock on Thursday afternoon, in celebration of the event, about 350 individuals, members and adherents of the congregation, held a tea-meeting in the old chapel. At the subsequent public meeting the chapel was well filled by a highly respectable audience. The chair was taken by F. J. Wood, Esq., LL.D., of Totteridge, and on the platform were the Rev. W. Griffith, the Rev. J. Andrews, Woburn, the Rev. S. F. Dodge, Dunstable, the Rev. J. Darling, Shillington, the Rev. J. B. Milsom, Ashwell, the Rev. J. Richards, Bicester, H. Butler, Esq., Royton, and G. Castleden, Esq., Woburn. After an opening address from the chairman, Mr. Edward West, who represented the deacons, read to Mr. Griffiths an address, which was handsomely inscribed in an elegant embossed volume, accompanied by the signatures of 332 persons, all upwards of sixteen years of age, connected with the congregation; together with a beautifully wrought purse, containing fifty sovereigns. Mr. Griffith expressed his gratitude to Dr. Wood, and to other friends on the platform, for their presence on the occasion; he felt specially grateful to the deacons of the congregation and the members of the congregation themselves, for co-operating with them in presenting this testimonial; they had laid

him under obligations to them, every one, who had contributed money or given their names, and made him their debtor for life. He trusted that God would reward them for the deed; and he could assure them that the remembrance of their kindness that night would remain with him till his latest day. At his settlement there was no schoolroom in existence, and the idea of building a new chapel was in embryo. It was talked of shortly after, and on the 1st of January, 1853, the resolution to build a new chapel was adopted. So feeble, however, was the effort even then, that the subscriptions towards that gigantic undertaking did not amount to over £1. The chapel had cost somewhere about £2,500, and he thought it was highly creditable to the congregation that they had paid of that large sum, with the exception of a small balance of from £60. to £70. Within the last nine years, by referring to the books, he found that 113 members had been added to the congregation, which was considerably more than had been added to it during an equal time at any former period of its history. The meeting was subsequently addressed by various gentlemen.

YORK-ROAD CHAPEL, LAMBETH.—On Tuesday evening, January 22nd, a most animated and crowded meeting of the church and congregation was held in the spacious schoolroom, capable of accommodating 600 persons, connected with the above place. The tea-tables were filled soon after the doors were opened, and the tastefully-arranged banners and pictorial mottoes gave the room a very gay appearance. After a devotional service, the Rev. Robert Robinson, pastor, delivered an opening address, from which it appeared that the minister had a truly-attached people, and the church some most exemplary deacons, and that the past year had been one of great blessing to the church, the congregation, and to the Sabbath-schools, in which the large separate classes for young men and women had abundantly shared. It was stated that seventy-four members had been added to the Church during the year, making an addition of 400 in the past five-and-a-half years of Mr. Robinson's pastorate. This statement was followed by some most fraternal, congratulatory, and instructive addresses, delivered by the Rev. Hugh Allen, M.A., rector of St. George's, Southwark, the Rev. George Rose, of Bermondsey, the Rev. Spence Hardie, F.G.S., of the Wesleyan Circuit, and W. H. Miller, Esq.

HIGHGATE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—On Wednesday evening last the annual meeting of the members of the above Church was held in the large school-room beneath the chapel. The occasion was more than ordinarily interesting. By the invitation of the minister, Rev. J. Viney, and his lady, 150 sat down to a sumptuous tea; after which the chair was taken by the pastor, and the various efforts of the past year, together with the different institutions of the Church, were brought under review. It appears that during the past twelve months between sixty and seventy members have been added to the Church. The debt on the chapel, which cost £5,000, has been entirely liquidated (within a year of its opening), the current expenses of the place have been liberally met, several new agencies brought into operation, and all the societies kept up in a vigorous condition, each showing a balance in the hands of its treasurer. Altogether it seems to have been a year of great prosperity, one for which the members of the Church have reason to congratulate each other and give thanks to God. After various addresses had been delivered, and free conference engaged in, bearing upon the different societies referred to, the meeting was concluded by singing and prayer. The friends were then invited into the adjoining class-room, where refreshments were liberally provided, and after a cordial vote of thanks to the host and hostess of the evening, the company separated, evidently well pleased with the general character of the evening, and with the successful manner in which the social and the Christian element had been made to harmonise in the service.—*Highgate Express.*

PERTH.—The Rev. John Pillans, pastor of Canal-crescent Congregational Church here, having on the 10th of December last received, and since then accepted, a cordial and unanimous call to become co-pastor with the Rev. John Burnet, of the Congregational Church, Camberwell, London, on the evening of Monday, the 21st inst. a valedictory *soirée* took place in Canal-crescent Chapel on the occasion of his leaving his present sphere of labour to enter on the duties of a wider and more important field in the great metropolis. Mr. Pillans occupied the chair. The Revs. R. Spence, M.A., Alexander Hannay, of Dundee, P. Whyte, of Montrose, and W. D. Knowles, B.A., of Perth, delivered interesting and able addresses expressive of the very high regard and esteem in which they held their brother about to leave this city, their regret at losing his fellowship and valued counsels, their wishes for his future welfare and prosperity in a sphere for which his rare mental abilities, broad sympathies, sagacious judgment, and singular Christian worth, so eminently fitted him; while Mr. John Grant, sen., deacon of the church, with delicate feeling and much good taste, in name of the brethren, presented Mr. Pillans with a handsome gold watch and guard as a small memento of their esteem and affection; and at the same time presented his excellent partner in life with a vignette photograph portrait of Mr. Pillans. The value of the presentations was £71. By Mr. Pillans's removal the Congregational churches of Scotland have been deprived of one of their most able ministers, the cause of temperance one of their most efficient advocates, and the city of Perth one esteemed above many for the deep interest he took

in all religious, benevolent, and social movements. Mr. Pillans entered on his ministry at Camberwell on Sunday, the 27th inst.—*From a Correspondent.*

Correspondence.

"RENT DINNERS AND CHURCH-RATE PETITIONS."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—In a short note addressed to you last week, I informed your readers that a petition in favour of Church-rates was presented for signature at Hawarden, Flint, at the recent half-yearly rent dinner of Sir Stephen Glynne, and W. E. Gladstone, Esq., M.P. I further stated, on what I believed to be unquestionable authority, that as a refusal to sign it would have been equivalent to a notice to quit, the petition could not be regarded as a fair expression of the opinion of the parish.

In a letter addressed to the editor of the *Morning Star*, of Friday last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer states that he was present at the rent dinner in question for three hours, and heard nothing of the petitions referred to. He also adds that the second assertion contained in my note has not the slightest shadow of foundation.

I have since addressed a letter of inquiry to my informant at Flint. In his reply, which now lies before me, he says:—"I do not remember stating that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was present at the time the petition was introduced. I believe he was not; but that the petition was handed round by Mr. Bennett, the parish clerk, and received the signatures of all but two present, is, I repeat, perfectly correct." He further adds:—"The assertion that persons signed it whose opinions were contrary, is also correct if such persons' statements are to be believed."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

N. T. L.

PURE RELIGIOUS VOLUNTARYISM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—Right glad am I to see that many Churchmen are pleading for the general adoption of what they usually call "The Weekly Offertory," and that some perceive therein not only the way of escape from the vexatious impost, Church-rates; but also discern in it sufficient potency to meet every Church necessity, and to secure freedom from State control.

A writer in the *Guardian* lately submitted that bishops, as a body, should enforce the practice of this method. Is it not a contradiction to speak of *enforcing* a voluntary giving? Is it not in the very nature of bondage to mistrust willingness, and to prefer law to liberty? Is not this reversing the course of the apostle, who having first written to Corinth on this very subject, "As I have given order to the Churches of Galatia, even so do ye;" afterwards wrote, "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love." By all means let bishops exert their best influence of teaching, persuasion, and example in this direction—as did a venerable archdeacon some months ago, at a visitation in a northern city, after hearing a powerful sermon on the subject from a local clergyman. The Bishop of Rochester also lately took a wise and efficient course in placing among the subjects left for examination in certain localities in Essex:—

"How to promote the habit of giving upon principle, i.e., setting apart a portion of a man's resources, as God has prospered him, without necessary consideration of the objects to which the money is to be applied, 1 Cor. xvi."

"2. The importance of an organised system of collections in parishes for Church objects at home and abroad."

The wondrous power and happy heart-influence of this plan is being extensively demonstrated in Churches attended both by the poor and by the rich, varying from 200. to 5,000. a year respectively.

In truth, many new Churches bid fair far to distance the Dissenters themselves (as they tenaciously adhere to antique human customs) in realising the elastic energy and exhaustless fruitfulness of a vital and oft-exercised willingness.

What if by this process, like Free Kirkmen, Churchmen should cast off the trammels of system, and become the true volunteers (by first adopting a Scripture rule, whether from policy, necessity, or sacred conviction), basking in the sunshine of liberty and plenty; while the long boasting advocates of the "glorious voluntary principle" become the willing slaves of custom and conventional law, with contracted funds—as pew-rents, fixed subscriptions, and the like. Men frequently adopt Scripture plans rather from necessity than from choice; but, "Palmam qui meruit ferat."

I am, Sir, yours truly,
Hackney, Jan. 18, 1861.

JOHN ROSS.

AMERICA.—THE SLAVE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—The election of Mr. Lincoln as President of the United States is an anti-slavery victory. It is the result of an earnest and severe struggle for thirty years with the slave power. The friends of the slave have prayed, journeyed, lectured, preached, printed, voted; have had suits at law; have endured persecution in almost all its forms; have been lynched; have seen their printing-presses destroyed, their buildings in several instances burnt down; life has been sacrificed; families have been divided; churches rent asunder;—and, in a word, the whole nation has been shaken to destroy the anti-slavery reform. But, notwithstanding all, the friends of the slave have elected a President.

A glance at the past Presidents will show how great a change has been made, politically. George Washington, a slaveholder, was elected twice; John Adams, a non-slaveholder, once; Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, slaveholders, were respectively elected twice; John Quincy Adams, a non-slaveholder, once; General Jackson, a slaveholder, elected twice; Martin Van Buren, a non-slaveholder, elected once; General Harrison, a non-slaveholder, died soon after taking the office, and John Tyler, the Vice-President, a slaveholder, became President; James K. Polk, a slaveholder, was elected once; General Taylor, a slaveholder, died soon

after taking the office, and Fillmore, a non-slaveholder, being Vice-President, became President (he signed the Fugitive Slave Law); Franklin Pierce, a non-slaveholder, was elected once; and James Buchanan, a non-slaveholder, was elected once—both were distinguished for their servility to the slave power.

The friends of the slave began to vote as a distinct party in 1840. They were called the Liberty party. They nominated for President James G. Birney, who had emancipated his slaves; the Whigs nominated Henry Clay, who had fifty slaves; the Democrats nominated Mr. Polk, who was elected, receiving millions of votes from the Free States, while Mr. Birney received 7,000 votes. They who gave the latter were pledged to vote for no slaveholder, and no person who favoured slavery. Every year their numbers increased, so that in 1848 they could poll sixty thousand votes. As they stood ready to join with either party that should declare itself for the abolition of slavery, and as they held the balance of power, both the other parties were in danger. An effort was made to form an anti-slavery-made-easy party. The following counsel was given to the Liberty party:—"You are too far in advance of the popular feeling! Lower your standard! Change your motto! Instead of saying 'No slavery in America,' make this your rallying cry, 'No new slave States,' you can then increase your party to 400,000." These counsels prevailed. The new party was named the Free Soil Party, which was afterwards changed to Republican, as a more popular name. This is the party which has elected Mr. Lincoln. I would that the President and the party went further, and refused to surrender refugee slaves, and avowed a determination to labour for the abolition of slavery throughout the United States. But in the present state of the public mind such a President could not be elected. As it is, Mr. Lincoln has a minority against him in every free State, and the slave States are almost unanimously against him. What he needs is more anti-slavery public sentiment, and public sentiment is stronger than armies or navies.

The Baptist Church, Whitechapel, of which the Rev. Charles Stovell is pastor, sent recently an address to the American Baptists remonstrating against them for supporting slavery. The reply to it by the Board of the Free Mission Society has appeared in the *Freeman* of last week; the following is an extract:—"The Congress of the United States of America opened the last half of the nineteenth century with the volunteer offer to become the great slave-catcher for all States that should hereafter claim property in man! The President and his marshals were converted into bloodhounds, to pursue the panting fugitive through every corner of liberty's domain! Whatever construction we may put upon the Constitution, there is certainly nothing in that instrument imposing the duty of catching and returning runaway slaves either upon Congress or the President. The assumption of this service was wholly gratuitous, a voluntary homage to oppression. From that time our Government has been upon a stormy sea. The bloated arrogance of the slave power has become more and more insufferable with every fresh concession to its demands. For the last ten years there has been no security for life or property in most of the slave States, except on condition of hearty and unqualified approval of slavery. Ministers of the Gospel, farmers, merchants, men of peaceable, quiet, inoffensive lives, have been driven from their homes, thrown into prison, shot like dogs, or hung, without the semblance of a trial, on the nearest tree. Senators have been murderously assaulted in the halls of legislation, while the representatives of the people who have ventured to stand up on behalf of human rights, have done so at the risk of assassination or the duel. Hordes of slaveholding ruffians have been allowed to range the new territory of Kansas, carrying fire and sword to every village where Northern freemen have attempted a settlement. Simultaneously with these outrages, the African slave-trade has been revived. In spite of former Acts of Congress, declaring the traffic piracy, New York merchants are making fortunes by transporting cargoes of stolen men, women, and children, direct from the African coast to the Southern States. Our daily journals (New York) contain the names of more than a hundred slaves which have left this port within a year, averaging somewhat over two vessels a week! All this has served to open the eyes of the North to the real character and designs of the slave power. A political party has been formed to check the onward tide of slaveholding aggression. That party does not, however, propose to interfere with slavery where it now exists, but only to prevent its extension into territories now free. To give the South as little ground of offence as possible, Mr. Lincoln, a Southerner by birth, an anti-slavery man, but of very moderate type, was selected as the Republican candidate for President. He is elected; and if all the freebooters and pirates of the earth were gathered in one band, the tumult could scarcely exceed that we are now witnessing. For the purpose of coercing the Government, rebellion is openly inaugurated in some of the States, while others declare their purpose of assuming the same attitude on the accession of the President elect. Conspicuous among the conspirators are professedly evangelical Christians of every denomination; and we are sorry to say that amongst them Baptists appear to be foremost. Many of the governors, leading statesmen, and most extensive slaveowners are Baptists; of the six or seven religious journals connected with the denomination at the South, every one defends slavery as a divine institution, and most of them are urging on the people to acts of treason. The Baptist Convention of Alabama being in session at the time the election of Lincoln was announced, immediately and unanimously adopted an address to the Governor of the State, advocating secession, and pledging their hearty and earnest co-operation in the work. Meantime, rifles, revolvers, and other arms are being shipped daily, by thousands, from New York to meet orders for the Southern market, while ordinary business is interrupted, and the whole country passing through a crisis like that of 1857, solely in consequence of pro-slavery threats."

The slaveholders see that in the next four years there must be a large increase to the Anti-slavery power in the free States. The 100,000 offices at the disposal of the President, which for half a century have been filled with slaveholders and their abettors, will now be filled to some extent with the friends of emancipation, and with each successive Presidential election the tide of anti-slavery sympathy will be increased. Hence the cry of secession on the part of some of the slave States. Should there be no secession, the anti-slavery movement will spread through the slave States; and should a seces-

sion take place, it will aid, in three ways, the cause of emancipation, and so hasten the overthrow of slavery.

First, refugee slaves would be as safe in the free States as they are now in Canada. The border States would soon have no slaves on this account, and would unite with the free States. A new tier of slave States would then become border States, and in like manner lose their slaves also. This would continue till all were free.

In the next place, before secession can take place, the popular feeling of the slave States must be prepared for it. The question must be discussed, "Liberty and union with the free States, or slavery and division from them." A discussion of this kind would lead the six millions of non-slaveholders in the slave States to appreciate the advantages of liberty, and they would vote in its favour. This enlightenment would have taken place by the efforts of anti-slavery ministers and lecturers: but they were driven from the slave States or put to death.

In the third place, the four millions of slaves, in the midst of so much discussion and excitement, would obtain some knowledge of the merits of the case. Already they watch, with a life-and-death interest, the words, looks, and gestures of the slaveholders. In proportion as they become informed the power of the slaveholder passes away, to be re-established no more. Secession must enlighten the slaves, and this will be incompatible with the perpetuity of slavery. Slavery is doomed, whatever course the slaveholders may elect to pursue.

Thanking you, Sir, for the aid you have so cordially given to the emancipation question.

I am, yours very truly,

EDWARD MATHEWS.

London, January 14, 1861.

REFORMATORY CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM.

A conference was held at Dee's Hotel, Birmingham, on Wednesday, for the purpose of discussing the question of providing for the education of neglected and destitute children, and the duty of the legislature and executive government in reference to the subject. The Right Hon. Sir John Pakington, M.P., presided. The attendance was numerous, and included the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Lord Calthorpe, Lord Lyttleton, the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Ingester, M.P., Sir B. Langton, M.P., Mr. M. D. Hill, Q.C., Mr. Scholefield, M.P., the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. T. C. S. Kynnerley, the Rev. Dr. Miller, Mr. C. W. Hoskyns, Mr. Spooner, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, Mr. R. Hanbury, M.P., Mr. C. H. Bracebridge, Dr. Bell, Edinburgh; Miss Carpenter, of Bristol; Mr. C. F. Runsey, of Aberdeen; the Rev. J. T. Birt, Chaplain of the Birmingham Gaol; Mr. Partridge, police magistrate, Wolverhampton; the Hon. Major Anson; Mr. Baker, Hardwicke-court; the Rev. G. Hans Hamilton, Berwick-upon-Tweed; Miss Isa Craig; Mr. Baker, Inspector of Factories; Dr. Birt Davies, and a large number of the clergy, as well as other well-known persons who take an interest in philanthropic labours of this character in various parts of the country. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Charles Ratcliff), announced that letters had been received from many distinguished persons apologising for absence, but expressive of their cordial concurrence in the movement.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, after a few preliminary observations, said they had assembled to consider what they believed to be a grievance, and to discuss what was its best remedy. The grievance was, that out of the large annual sum which was voted by Parliament to assist in the education of the poor, those who were the most poor, the most destitute, who peopled our ragged schools, received nothing—were, in fact, excluded from that which professed to provide for them. They would be told by those in authority that they were not excluded, but practically they were excluded; for in those respects in which aid was offered, it was saddled with such conditions as to make it generally undesirable that aid should be accepted. A minute was at one time passed, and for some time acted upon, by which ragged schools were enabled to get their share of the public money granted for education. But scarcely had they proved the benefit of this liberality, scarcely had they begun to make their arrangements, to extend their buildings, to purchase premises, and to avail themselves of the grants, than the minute was withdrawn. This being their grievance, their general principle and their object were, in the words of their circular letter:—

The welfare of society requires that all its members should be educated; therefore it is the duty of the State, both as regards society in general and each individual composing it, to provide education for those who cannot obtain it for themselves. This duty is recognised by the State, since it provides education for those who are in gaols and reformatories, and therefore come compulsorily under its care, and for those who are thrown on society for support, i.e., paupers. The same duty exists, but has not been discharged by the State, towards children who are not yet either criminals or paupers, but whose natural guardians will not, or cannot, provide for their education. It is the object of the Conference to lay before the Executive Government and the Legislature, as a consequence of the principle above stated, the imperative duty of their providing education for this portion of the community—the neglected and destitute children of Great Britain."

This paper had the signature of 146 of the most eminent friends of education in Great Britain, Scotland, and Ireland. The resolution which he (Sir John) moved in the House of Commons last session, contained the following:—"That the Ragged and Industrial Schools, which are alone adapted to meet the wants of a considerable number of destitute and neglected children, do not receive the amount of aid to which they are entitled." He was answered by the minister who represented the education depart-

ment (Mr. Lowe), that "The system being a voluntary one, the rich would provide for their own neighbourhoods, and often to excess, and the poor who had no rich among them would be unprovided for." If Mr. Lowe had desired to strike a blow at the system in existence, he could have made no statement more fatal to the department over which he presided. For it was thus openly avowed by the educational minister that for those who were most destitute they did nothing. His own (Sir J. Pakington's) opinion was, that public aid to education would be more beneficially given if they applied to the education of the humbler classes of society the principles of local management.

And here, again, he must quote from his Right Hon. friend Mr. Lowe—"The practice of the Committee of Education was not to give grants in consideration of requirements and necessities of the schools, but in consideration of private persons coming forward and supporting them." To this there were two answers. First, if such was the practice of the Privy Council it ought to be changed; and, secondly, Mr. Lowe had fallen into a practical error. He said the practice of the Privy Council was to grant money in consideration of private persons coming forward. That was precisely what they were asking for the ragged schools; they had never asked that they should become entirely a burden on the public purse. But one thing he did regret more than any other in the speech of Mr. Lowe, and it was when he made a boast of the pecuniary saving which had been effected by withholding aid to these ragged schools. The charge upon the education department, while this grant to the ragged schools was in existence, was 27,000L a-year, but in consequence of withholding that grant the amount was reduced to 5,500L, and Mr. Lowe boasted that a saving of 22,000L had been effected.

When they considered what had been done by these ragged schools, was 22,000L, or even 27,000L, at all too large a sum to spend out of the State funds in their support? The statement he held in his hand would show what had been done:—"Upwards of 3,000 children had attended the Aberdeen Industrial Schools since their commencement. Of these 600 had gone from schools into situations, and are, with very few exceptions, known to be doing well; while of the others there is every reason to believe that a very large number have not misconducted themselves. During the last few years the greatest possible change has taken place. Out of the thousand vagrants who were reported to be wandering in this part of the country, the whole juvenile proportion, calculated at nearly 400, have entirely disappeared. The juvenile offenders in prison under twelve years of age have decreased from sixty-one in 1841 to fifteen in 1858." Having further adverted to the good done by the ragged schools, and quoted from the paper read by Miss Carpenter at the Bradford meeting of the Social Science Association, to show their beneficial effect on society at large, Sir John Pakington expressed his confidence in the ultimate success of the movement.

Mr. M. D. HILL, Q.C., after a few preliminary observations, proceeded to deliver a very long written address. He said the object which they had in view was to bring the little outcasts of society into the brotherhood of mankind. The grand truths of religion should stand first in any system of education. The learned gentleman contended for the principle of a State provision for the education of children, and spoke of the advantages of ragged schools. The learned gentleman moved:—

That obedience to the laws of God and man is powerfully promoted by the diffusion of sound knowledge, and the training up of the young in the exercise of the great duties of life; therefore it is incumbent on the State, as far as possible, to insure the means of education for all children for whom their parents are, through poverty, unable, or through ignorance, unwilling, to provide it.

Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, M.P., seconded the resolution. A paper on "Ragged-schools," setting forth their usefulness, was read by Miss CARPENTER, which was warmly commended by Sir John Pakington.

After a few words from the Archdeacon of WORCESTER, who expressed his cordial concurrence in the objects of the conference,

The Rev. Mr. OSBORNE, chaplain of Bath Gaol, declared it to be his unqualified opinion that every child in the land ought to be educated.

The Rev. S. BACHZ, Unitarian minister, said that, even though he stood alone in the matter, he could not permit the resolution to be put without expressing his perfect faith in the voluntary principle.

The resolution was put and carried.

The Rev. Dr. GUTHRIE moved the second resolution:—

That neglected and morally destitute children constitute a very large portion of the community, yet that no educational aid is given for their education from the Parliamentary grant, comparable to such as is given to other classes of schools.

He said his experience in Edinburgh enabled him to bear testimony to the fact, as stated in the resolution, that neglected and destitute children constitute a very large class of the community. He had laboured for seven years in the very lowest part of the town of Edinburgh, and had become satisfied that it was impossible to raise the ragged classes unless it was done through the rising generation; and the only way of doing that was by means of ragged schools. Such was also the unanimous opinion of the city missionaries with whom he was acquainted. Before the establishment of ragged schools in Edinburgh thousands of juvenile beggars frequented the streets, but under the operation of these institutions the streets had been cleared of them. Five per cent. of the prisoners were formerly juveniles under fourteen years of age, but in the fourth year after the establishment of these schools the proportion was reduced to four per cent., and in the fifth year the

had only half a juvenile. Of the commitments in Edinburgh during the ten years ending 1860, 1.5 per cent. were juveniles; from Leith, 4.8 per cent.—an extraordinary fact, showing that in Leith, where no ragged-schools existed, the juvenile offenders were three times as numerous as in Edinburgh, which had four ragged-schools. The proposition which he suggested should be made to the Government was, that they should only contribute such money as was needed for strictly educational purposes, and the accounts should be submitted to Government inspection annually as a security that the grants were not abused. He did not wish to call upon the Government to pay a farthing for food and clothing for the children, which would be provided for by private benevolence. Another proposition he would make was, that the Government should contribute towards these schools one-third of the amount raised by private benevolence; and he thought a more reasonable suggestion was never laid before the Government.

The Earl of SHREWSBURY seconded the resolution, which, after a few remarks from Sir BALDWIN LEIGH-TON and Mr. HANBURY, M.P., was carried.

The Rev. Dr. MILLER moved the third resolution, as follows:—

That the experience of the last eighteen years has proved that this portion of the population is reached in many districts to a considerable extent, and can be effectually raised by ragged and industrial schools; but the schools of this class, which ought to be good, involve much greater expenditure than ordinary schools, and cannot be permanently supported in the required efficiency, or extended to all districts requiring them, by voluntary aid alone.

Viscount INGESTRE seconded the resolution, which, after some remarks from Dr. BELL and other gentlemen, was carried unanimously.

Lord LYTTELTON proposed the next resolution, as follows:—

That it is therefore the duty of the State to give liberal financial aid to such schools, availing itself, as in the case of reformatories, of that voluntary effort which is an essential condition of our success.

Mr. SPOONER, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. HANBURY moved the appointment of a committee to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect.

Subsequently the chair was taken by the Earl of Shrewsbury, and a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. M. D. Hill, was passed to Sir John Pakington for presiding, when the Conference adjourned until the evening.

At the adjourned meeting in the evening, the Mayor in the chair.

The Rev. Dr. GUTHRIE moved the confirmation of the resolutions which had been passed at the Conference in the morning. He read the resolutions *seriatim*, and dilated upon them at great length, going over again the ground he had taken in the morning, and amplifying his remarks. After describing what had been done in the schools at Edinburgh, the rev. doctor added:—

When they were getting up banquets to the soldiers of the Crimea, and to all the grand Members of Parliament, we thought we'd give a banquet to our ragged-bairns, who had fought as great a battle as any Crimean soldier; and far harder too. (Applause.) All of a sudden the thing was resolved on; all of a sudden the thing was done. We have them, you know—these ragged-school scholars that were—cutting down the forests in America; we have them herding sheep in Australia; we have them in the navy; and—what d'ye think?—there was an odd thing in this way; we had a competition among boys in the navy, and the ragged-school boys carried off the highest prizes. (Cheers.) We have them in the army, too. Just the other day I had in my drawing-room one of my ragged-school scholars. "What was he doing there?" you ask. Well he was just standing beside a very pretty girl—(laughter)—dressed like a duchess, with an enormous crinoline, and all that. (Loud laughter.) There he was; and on his breast he carried three medals. (Applause.) He had fought the battles of his country in the Crimea, he had gone up the deadly march to Lucknow, and rescued the women and the children and our soldiers there—(cheers)—and I was proud of my ragged-school boy when I saw him with his honours. (Renewed cheering.) Well, as I said, we resolved to give a banquet; we furnished one of our best rooms, and had it brilliant with gas, and laurel, and ivy, and the coral-beaded holly—and the quantity of tea and toast! it isn't to be told. (Laughter and applause.) We just sent away through Edinburgh, and in a day we got 150, all doing for themselves. I was master of the ceremonies. So I heard a great rush of feet—I was standing at the door, you know, to receive my company—and I could not believe my eyes when I saw the succession of good-looking respectable young men, and the succession of comely, virtuous-looking, happy young women. (Cheers.) A girl came up smiling, and she said, "You will remember me, Dr. Guthrie. This is my man." (Laughter.) And then a great big, honest-looking, burly fellow came up, and he said, "You will remember me, Doctor. This is my wife." (Renewed laughter.) And they filled that room. I never saw a more respectable company; and how they laughed and sang! And we prayed too; we prayed and we gave them good advice. (Cheers.) I never spent happier night—no, not in the greatest, noblest house I was ever in—than I spent when I entertained my ragged-school children. (Applause.) Well, that is what we have done; and what we have done in Edinburgh has been done in every town in Scotland. We hear of reformatories. I was at Paisley, speaking of ragged-schools, a fortnight ago, and the Sheriff was there, and he spoke too. He said that ragged-schools had been the blessing of the town of Paisley. They had, he said, built a reformatory to reform young criminals, and they could not get a tenant for it—the ragged-school at Paisley had caught every child before he went over the precipice, and there was a Reformatory "to be let." (Cheers.) And if the work goes on there will be prisons to be let—the prisons will be in the happy condition that the prison of a town in Fife that I passed through was in. I was passing by the prison, when I

heard a fiddle playing, and I asked a man what was the meaning of a fiddle in a prison. (Laughter.) "Oh," he said, "There's nobody to put into the prison, so they have made it a dancing-school. (Cheers and laughter.)

The rev. doctor concluded amid much applause.

The resolutions were then confirmed.

The complimentary motions were moved and seconded by Mr. Hill, the Rev. Canon Miller, Mr. C. W. Hoskyns, and Lord Lyttelton, and the Conference broke up.

M.P.'S ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

A great meeting was held in Carlisle on Tuesday, in favour of Parliamentary Reform. The resolutions and petition, which were adopted, were moved by electors, seconded by non-electors, and supported by Mr. Lawson, M.P., and Mr. W. Wilks. It was resolved that the session of 1861 ought to produce a reform of the representation, including at least household suffrage in the boroughs, a 10/- occupation franchise in counties, and the ballot; and a retrenchment in our national expenditure to an amount permitting of the equitable adjustment of the income-tax, the abolition of the paper-duty, and of the remaining imposts on articles of consumption in the homes of the poor. Mr. LAWSON, M.P., in the course of his speech, said:—

Now is the season to set our house in order—for think of the effect upon this country of two or three bad harvests or the failure of the cotton crop in America. I think no one can look without alarm at the prospect of hundreds of thousands of working men thrown out of employment by such calamity, when, in addition to the pangs of hunger, they at the same time feel the sense of injustice rankling in their breasts. I do not say that it would be right to do so, but we know what human nature is—and at such a time when four-fifths of the people in this country are excluded from taking any part in what is called self-government, which they suppose is their right, we need not be surprised if they felt disposed to revenge themselves upon the one-fifth who excluded them from that power. I say then, let us be prepared. Let us make everything secure before the storm comes. As good citizens, I believe we are doing our duty by meeting here to-night to urge upon the Government the settlement of this great question—a settlement which will not tend to set one class against another, as is falsely and foolishly predicted, but, on the contrary, will tend to make all classes live together in a more friendly and harmonious spirit, and will also, I believe in my own conscience, do much to promote peace, prosperity, and contentment in our country.

Taking Church-rates as an illustration, he showed, by the diminished majority of last session, that, while the opinion of the people points one way, the action of the House of Commons tends to the reverse. Mr. WASHINGTON WILKS advertizing to the arguments which some might advance against manhood suffrage from the position of affairs in America, said it was no argument at all; and those who advanced it were totally ignorant of the American government and of the American crisis. The States in which there was no manhood suffrage, no democracy, but where men voted by virtue of their property,—and that property human beings,—such were the States who were determined to split up the Federation. On the other hand, in the Northern States,—in New England,—under universal suffrage and the ballot, the people lived in a state of peace and prosperity, paid their light taxes cheerfully, were well educated, and in general well employed.

The Members for Leeds attended a meeting of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, and, at the request of the gentlemen present, made speeches. Mr. BEECROFT touched upon the Bankruptcy question, and recommended that the hands of Government should be strengthened, that an efficient measure might be obtained. His advice was that they should tell the Government what it is that the public interest requires, and leave it to the Crown lawyers to find out the most apt machinery to supply their wants. What they require is, as it seemed to him, to sweep away existing anomalies, and then, in substituting new provisions, to keep in view the great principles upon which the law of bankruptcy was originally designed. Mr. BAINES occupied himself with pronouncing a eulogy on the French treaty; and the Chamber passed a resolution applauding Mr. Cobden "for his indefatigable labours in this cause."

Messrs. Buchanan and Dalglish, the members for the city of Glasgow, met their constituents on Wednesday night. The former gentleman referred more particularly to foreign politics, and rejoiced in the fact that this country, by strictly adhering to the great principle of non-intervention, was at peace with the whole of Europe, notwithstanding the delicate and intricate questions which have during the past year arisen upon Continental subjects. Mr. Dalglish commented upon domestic matters, and ascribed the delay which has taken place in reference to Reform and similar subjects to the policy of the Conservative party, who availed themselves of every opportunity which presented itself to throw impediments in the path of the Government.

Mr. J. M. COBBETT, M.P., has addressed his constituents at Oldham. Though a professed Liberal, Mr. Cobbett supported Lord Derby's Reform Bill, and expressed his deep regret that the measure had not been suffered to pass. The honourable gentleman is not altogether satisfied with the French treaty, believing it to be inconsistent to ask Parliament to ratify any such measure unless it was palpably advantageous to the country.

Mr. ROUPELL addressed his constituents in Lambeth on Monday night, and met with a very cordial reception. The hon. gentleman expressed a hope that the House of Commons would take an early

opportunity of retrieving its reputation, which had been damaged by the assault made upon its privileges by the Upper House. He pledged himself to support any step which might be taken with this object. He said there were indications that another Reform Bill was in course of preparation, and he hoped that if this was the case it would prove to be more worthy of the acceptance of the people than the abortive measure which fell through during the last session. At the close of the proceedings a vote of thanks to Mr. Roupell was unanimously adopted.

Mr. SHERIDAN, the member for Dudley, gave "an account of his stewardship" on Tuesday evening, and took the opportunity of protesting against the terms of the address to Lord Palmerston, now in course of agitation, urging a reduction of our warlike establishments. The hon. gentleman said the appeal was ill-timed, the elements of strife and commotion active on every side. Mr. Sheridan, on the whole, met with a very cordial reception.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE REPRESENTATION OF LEICESTER.—Canvassing on behalf of the three candidates, Messrs. Harris, Heygate, and Taylor, is progressing with great vigour. On Friday evening Mr. Harris addressed his supporters, and expressed himself confident of success. Mr. Heygate goes for a moderate reform, a compromise with regard to Church-rates; and abroad, non-intervention. He also promises to give Lord Palmerston's Government an independent support. Mr. Harris goes for vote by ballot, and promises to support Lord Palmerston; but Mr. Taylor does not advocate the ballot, except permissively, but is in favour of universal suffrage, and of sweeping measures of reform. It is calculated there are about 4,300 electors, of which but 3,500 perhaps will actually vote. From this it will be seen that if Mr. Heygate obtains 1,500, as his supporters claim that he will, he must win. Strong hopes are entertained, however, by those who wish well to the Liberal cause, that both Mr. Harris and Mr. Taylor may yet be prevailed upon to retire, and a gentleman jointly brought forward by the respective committees, so that the seat may no longer be endangered. A name has been mentioned, but no satisfactory decision arrived at.—*Times*.

SOUTH WILTS.—The Conservatives of South Wilts have found a candidate for the seat vacated by Lord Herbert of Lea. No fewer than 1,200 electors have signed a requisition to Lieutenant-Colonel Bathurst, son of Sir H. Bathurst, of Clarendon-park; and he has consented to stand, asking the electors for their votes "as Conservatives;" but his conservatism does not go the length of the adoption of Mr. Disraeli's cry of "No surrender" on the question of Church-rates. He is for any measure which, while ameliorating the law of Church-rates, does not deprive the Church of her proper dues. Colonel Bathurst makes "the vindication of the independence" of South Wilts a prominent point in his address.—Mr. Grove is determined to carry on the contest with Lieutenant-Colonel Bathurst; and, although the requisition to the Conservative was signed by 1,200, nearly one-half the constituency, it is nevertheless said that Mr. Grove will win.

ABERDEENSHIRE.—The Liberal requisition to the Hon. A. Gordon has received 600 signatures.

THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

The distribution of money and bread and coal tickets at the police offices ceased on Saturday, all the "frozen out" labourers having resumed their employment, and the destitution is now chiefly confined to specific localities, such as Spitalfields. The task undertaken by the police magistrates during the frost was very burdensome. Mr. Selfe, of the Thames Police-court, has done an enormous deal of good for the suffering poor; in the course of the last five weeks his labours have been often protracted until nearly midnight. He has opened upwards of 4,000 letters recommending deserving persons as objects of temporary relief, examined 3,000 printed forms, received numerous clergymen of all creeds, committees, laymen, and others soliciting; and has been engaged day after day in corresponding with various persons on the necessities of the district. During the month 500/- was distributed at the Lambeth Police-court to 1,330 persons. In one day alone, the 22nd, as many as 161 were relieved.

There is a considerable reaction in the public mind against almsgiving, as shown by the letters in the daily papers. "A Clergyman" in charge of a suburban district writes the *Times* to point out how much the present distress is caused or aggravated by the improvident, dirty, and intemperate habits of the poor. "A Builder" writes:—

The other day I assisted in distributing tickets for soup, coals, &c., to the poor in a district in the east of London. It was on a week-day, and the people were called together into a church, which was filled with them. The manager of a public company which employs most of the labour there attended and cross-questioned each applicant, and I assure you it was sickening, not so much to see so much distress as to have the conviction forced upon one that nineteen-twentieths of all that misery was wholly owing to the improvidence of the people themselves. Knowing nearly all the persons, there was no chance for them to deceive this gentleman, so the truth came out; and that truth was, in scores of cases, that the husbands of these women had been till very lately, when stopped by the frost, regularly earning from 20s. to 40s. per week—some of them more.

I myself have known my own men, who have been earning 33s. per week for months, asking charity after

being stopped a few days. I have known one man, to whom I was paying 20s. a week, pay 12s. of it for one week's beer.

Now, I have had long experience of the working classes, and have been compelled to come to the conviction that charity is a very good thing, but it is now being overdone; half of those who receive it neither require nor deserve it. The noisy ones rob the really deserving and modest poor of their share.

An "East-end Incumbent," in advocating that the whole of London should be regarded as one parish, and all be made to contribute equally to the relief of the poor, mentions that 650 summons for poor-rates have been issued in one East-end parish alone within the last fortnight.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Lord Palmerston has issued the usual circular, requesting his supporters to be present at the assembling of Parliament on February 5th.

In consequence of the infirmities of age and a continuance of ill-health, the Right Hon. Edward Ellice has signified his intention of retiring from the representation of Coventry at the next general election. Hon. E. C. Leigh, brother of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, is freely spoken of as his successor.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Mrs. Disraeli have arrived at Grosvenor-gate from Windsor Castle, where they have been on a visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort.

Orders have been issued to supply every large-class ship in the navy with three Armstrong guns as a part of their armament, to consist of one of the largest description, 100-pounders, and two 40-pounders.—*United Service Gazette*.

General von Bonin arrived at Windsor Castle on Tuesday, on a special mission from the King of Prussia. Lord John Russell also arrived at the Castle. Prince Phillip of Wurtemburg left the Castle on Tuesday.

Cabinet Councils were held on Friday and Saturday afternoons at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury in Downing-street.

At the recent examination of candidates for honours at Cambridge, the Senior Wranglership was carried off by Mr. W. S. Aldis, second son of the Rev. J. Aldis, Baptist minister of Reading, who received the whole of his education at the City of London School. This high honour followed the success of the same establishment in the previous year, when one of the pupils obtained the position of Second Wrangler.

The Duke of Sutherland continues daily to regain his strength. The Earl of Carlisle, Lord and Lady Biantyre, and the Duke and Duchess of Argyle, are staying with the Duchess at Trentham.

The Address in the House of Commons, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, to be moved by Sir E. Colebrooke, will be seconded by Mr. Charles Paget, M.P. for Nottingham.

Major-General Walker, it is said, is to succeed Major-General Cameron in the command of the troops in North Britain, the latter officer being under orders for embarkation to New Zealand.—*United Service Gazette*.

Dr. Stevenson, of South Leith, has been appointed to the Chair of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Edinburgh, in the room of the late Dr. Robertson.

Law and Police.

THE GREAT LEATHER FAILURES.—The case of Streatfeild has again come before the Bankruptcy Court last week. Mr. Karslake, for the assignees, drew a vivid picture of the reckless course pursued by the firm, and put in a tabular statement, showing the amount of genuine trade carried on with the eleven failed houses, and the amount of "accommodation" granted to each between the 1st of January, 1857, and the 2nd of July, 1860. It amounts to no less than 5,942,660L Mr. Watkins, for the discount houses, and Mr. Linklater, for Leyland and Bullins, bankers at Liverpool, denounced the conduct of the bankrupts in the strongest terms. Mr. Watkins declaring that the bankrupts had been guilty of fraud and misrepresentation.

A CLAIMANT TO ROYAL DESCENT.—Mrs. Ryves, who claims to be the granddaughter of the Duke of Cumberland, who was brother of George III. (and therefore asserts her right to a princely title and to a large amount of property), again came before the Court of Probate on Thursday last, when the court decided that she had fully established her own legitimacy as the daughter of the late Mr. John Thomas Serres and Olive his wife, of whose lawful marriage the court felt satisfied. A decree of legitimacy was consequently granted. This is only the second application under this part of the late act, and the first that has been successful. The other was that of Miss Shedd. Mrs. Ryves asserts that her mother was a legitimate daughter of the Duke.

A CRUEL SCHOOLMASTER PUNISHED.—The Leeds magistrates have sent one Purchon, a schoolmaster, to prison for two months, to his great astonishment. He had committed an "aggravated assault" upon a pupil nine years of age—that is, he beat the child unmercifully because the little thing "laughed at, and irritated him." The magistrates very properly remarked that a man who could act in that way is "unfit to be a schoolmaster."

It is stated that the efflorescence of the stone work of the Houses of Parliament is apparent inside, as well as outside.

Obituary.

THE LATE DR. LEGGE, OF LEICESTER. (From the *Leicester Mercury*.)

Our obituary this day contains the record of the death of the Rev. G. Legge, LL.D., whose sudden and somewhat unexpected decease has cast a gloom over the town. The departure of one so highly gifted, and of such varied literary attainment, is a cause for mournful regret. On Sunday week he preached twice in his own chapel and once in the afternoon at the Temperance Hall, and on the Tuesday evening following he delivered a lecture at Great Wigton, on "John Knox," an engagement which his friends and medical attendant urged him to postpone, but which he was resolutely bent on keeping. It was with difficulty he got up stairs to bed on his return home, and in the morning called in Mr. Bowmar. All that medical skill could accomplish was tried to arrest the progress of disease, but tried in vain, and on Thursday morning last, at two o'clock, he calmly departed into the unseen world.

It is a quarter of a century since he became the minister of the church and congregation connected with Gallowtree-gate Chapel, and during that period, "through good report and through evil report," he has presided over their deliberations. When he became the settled minister of the place, it was burdened with a heavy debt, and its interior arrangements and comfort were anything but inviting to strangers. The first decided improvement was the erection of an end gallery and organ, which in a few years was followed by the addition of a side gallery. Two or three years ago, new and commodious school-rooms were erected, capable of accommodating 750 children. The whole of these improvements have not only been paid for, but the debt existing at the commencement of his pastorate has been greatly reduced, and it was one of the desires of his heart that his life might be spared to witness its entire extinction, a desire which his Father in Heaven has not seen fit to grant.

As a preacher Dr. Legge had none of those characteristics which gain popularity. His awkward delivery prevented him from being properly appreciated. He had none of the graceful attitudes of the orator, yet there was a perfect naturalness in his manner. To a stranger his delivery was somewhat painful; and it was only after repeated opportunities of hearing him that his eloquence became fascinating; and to those who entered thoroughly with him into his subject, all the defects and peculiarities of his style were forgotten. He possessed a gorgeous and powerful imagination, which rendered some of his discourses remarkably brilliant. He was naturally too impatient to be a good controversialist, and his forte lay in graphic delineation of human character and passion, and in his masterly appeals to the intellect and the conscience of his hearers. His pulpit ministrations were sustained during the twenty-five years of his pastorate by the resources of an original and fertile mind. There was no sameness in his discourses, for they were pervaded by a freshness and vigour which gave a charm to all his compositions. He was a large-hearted, heaven-gifted man, and generous to a fault.

For the last few years of his life he has not taken a prominent part in public affairs, but shortly after his settlement in Leicester he entered heartily into several of the questions which agitated society. During the Church-rate conflict in this borough he stood boldly forward as the eloquent and unhesitating defender of voluntaryism in religion, and the uncompromising denouncer of all ecclesiastical wrong. In all that affected the progress of humanity he felt the deepest interest, and civil and religious liberty found in him a valiant and consistent champion. He was, in fine, the possessor of abilities which qualified him to fill a high place in the world of letters, and made him at once the student and exponent of both nature and revelation.

Postscript.

Wednesday, January 30, 1861.

THE ELECTIONS IN ITALY.

TURIN, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 5 P.M.
The elections for North Italy are now all known. They secure a large majority to the Government. In Lombardy they are better than they were last year. The Mazzinian party has been completely beaten. The returns of the elections from Naples received to-day are good. It may be calculated that two-thirds of the elected are favourable to the Government.

The first news of the elections in Sicily is very good. Messina, Syracuse, and Catania have returned leaders of the Moderate party.

Crispi has been defeated at Palermo.

THE SIEGE OF GAETA.

NAPLES, Jan. 28.

A flag of truce was yesterday sent from Gaeta to the fleet. An Italian steamer immediately proceeded to the fortress, and the firing was afterwards suspended on both sides.

Deserters from the Bourbon army speak of a project to surrender Gaeta. The fire of the Cavalli cannon has been marvelous.

The elections in the provinces are favourable for the Ministry.

BERNE, Tuesday.

The Federal Council has received official information that the siege of Gaeta is proceeding favourably for the Sardinians. The Italian fleet has suffered but little

damage from the fire of the besieged. The insurrection in the Abruzzi has been suppressed.

VIENNA, Jan. 29.

Prince Petrulla, ambassador of King Francis II. at Vienna, has received an autograph letter from Gaeta, in which the King declares that he intends fighting to the last.

NAPLES.

NAPLES, Jan. 26 (via Marseilles).

The district surrounding Chieti has been tranquillised. Fighting continues in other parts of the Apennines.

The city of Naples is more tranquil. The police have prohibited political demonstrations.

PRUSSIA.

BERLIN, Jan. 29.

The report that France had demanded explanations on account of the speeches delivered by the King since his accession to the throne, is denied in Ministerial and diplomatic quarters.

An interesting incident characterised the deliberations of the commission appointed by the Prussian Chamber of Representatives to indite the address in reply to the Royal speech. M. de Vineke proposed to insert in this address a paragraph declaring that the consolidation of Italian unity was in the interest of Europe. This proposition was rejected by the commission, but by a majority of one only—nine voting for it and ten against it. M. de Vineke, after this vote, declined the office of reporter of commission, which had been conferred upon him. M. Beselar was appointed in his stead.

RUSSIA.

The *Nord* of yesterday says that the council of the Russian empire is to assemble this week, under the presidency of the Czar, to examine definitely the principal articles of an imperial manifesto decreeing the abolition of serfdom. The Emperor will then decide upon the mode and the time of the enfranchisement—not to be delayed, it is hoped, beyond the next autumn. The manifesto is expected to appear in March.

MR. BRIGHT AT BIRMINGHAM.

A great meeting was held at Birmingham last night, to afford Mr. Bright and Mr. Scholfield an opportunity of addressing their constituents before the commencement of the session. The morning papers publish a telegraphic summary of their speeches. Mr. Scholfield spoke in favour of economy, non-intervention, and the introduction of a Reform Bill.

Mr. Bright dwelt at some length upon our enormous and profligate expenditure. Speaking of the House of Commons, he believed that no assembly ever existed that was less calculated to govern economically than the House which calls itself a popular and representative body, though three-fourths of its members owed no allegiance to any popular constituency. Parliament was ruled by the military and naval services, which had become so great that the most palatial clubs built in London of late years were entirely for their accommodation. They had also a special press devoted to their cause, and were allied with the Court, the peerage, and the great territorial interest. There was a constant pressure upon the Government which the Government found it difficult to resist, and they had great power in Parliament. But all this could not bring about this extravagant expenditure were it not that the people were ill-informed upon these matters. The people were dazed, and when a man was duped, it was easy of course to do anything with him. Mr. Bright adverted to the session about to commence. He asked: Shall we have the same waste, the same fraud, the same extravagant estimates provided for and condemned by the great Chancellor of the Exchequer? Let him warn them that if the estimates were as large as those last session, that there was some power in this country which intended war. Let them not interfere in foreign quarrels, and nobody would interfere with them, least of all the Emperor of the French. The people of France wished for peace with Europe, and especially with England. He believed that if our own Government gave authority to Mr. Cobden to ascertain whether the Government of France would consent to an amicable arrangement by which the navies of the two countries should not pass their present bounds, it would be received by the French Government with as cordial a feeling as it received the proposition to make that great treaty of commerce. Of course, the men who suspected the French Emperor would smile at his credulity. He believed the opinion to be a sound one, but was sorry to say that judging from the past he believed that the greatest obstacles would be found on this side of the Channel to any such convention. Mr. Bright then concluded in an eloquent peroration, and resumed his seat amidst the most enthusiastic applause, after having spoken for an hour and a half.

We (*Post*) believe we may confidently anticipate that the Bankruptcy Bill of the Government will be introduced into the House of Commons on the first night of the session.

Mr. Cobden is still at Algiers, and has no intention of leaving it until the season is much more advanced.—*Morning Star*.

On Monday night a fearful railway accident took place between the Wimbledon and Maldon stations on the London and South-Western line. The tender and five carriages got off the line, and were precipitated down an embankment nine feet high. One passenger was instantly killed, and two others were seriously injured.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The bulk of the English wheat on sale in to-day's market was chiefly the refuse of Monday, and in very poor condition. Both red and white samples met a very dull trade, at barely that day's decline in the quotations. The imports of foreign wheat are large, and there was a full average show of samples on the stands. Selected and useful qualities were in fair request, at full prices; but other kinds ruled excessively dull. In floating cargoes, very little business was transacted, at drooping currencies. We have to report a very slow sale for all descriptions of barley, at the recent reduction in value. Malt moved off heavily, but we have no change to notice in prices. Oats were quite as dear as on Monday, and the show of samples was very moderate. Beans and peas were tolerably firm in price, but the business doing in them was somewhat restricted.

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“N. R.”—The communication with which he favoured us has been lying at our Publisher's office ever since.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1861.

SUMMARY.

THE meeting of Parliament next Tuesday is awaited with anxiety, rather in the hope that it will be the means of eliciting definite information on continental affairs, than from any expectation of important domestic reforma. The public are anxious to learn what construction is to be put upon the King of Prussia's recent prediction of a struggle for national existence, the truth of the report of extensive warlike preparations in France, and of the movements of Russian troops towards the Principalities and Poland with a view to prevent revolutionary outbreaks. There is now every reason to believe that Russia and Prussia have agreed to uphold Austria not only in the retention of Venetia, but in case of an outbreak in Hungary, and that this is the secret of the repressive measures now being taken in the latter kingdom. In other respects the Court of Vienna is assuming a bolder front, having declared to the French Government that it will consider as a *casus belli* with Piedmont an attack by Garibaldi upon any point whatsoever of the Austrian territory.

What influence this new combination, formed indirectly against himself, will have upon the Sovereign of France, may possibly be learned from his forthcoming speech at the opening of the Corps Législatif. The Northern potentates appear to forget that Louis Napoleon, if he cannot obtain a cession of Venetia, has it in his power to consolidate the new Italian kingdom by taking the advice of the *Sicile* to withdraw his troops from Rome, and thus to enable Victor Emmanuel more effectually to prepare for a final struggle on the Mincio. With all the Great Powers arming, and European affairs in so complicated a state, it is impossible to deny that there is ground for anxiety as to what the spring will produce. But, happily, Prussia, Austria, and France are too deeply involved in financial difficulties to take any hasty step that will precipitate a European war, and we hope that the influence of our Government will prevent William I. carrying out his menaces against Denmark. It is in Hungary that the greatest fears of insurrection are entertained. But the Hungarians have no present intention to raise the standard of rebellion, and hope to wear out their German masters. This passive resistance of a whole nation is not easy to meet. Since the first of November no taxes have been paid in that country; the excise officers have not ventured to intrude into the stills, or to tax the butcher's meat; tobacco is sold under their very nose; and it is estimated that the loss to the Imperial treasury will be nearly forty millions of florins before the meeting of the Diet. The impoverished state of the Austrian exchequer is seen in the new loan put forth—a loan based upon the novel principle of allowing a bonus of twelve per cent. for the payment of taxes in advance! To such miserable shifts is the needy Court of Vienna reduced.

The sinister predictions of a new period of

anarchy and division in Italy are not likely to be realized. It is true that Gaeta still holds out, and that the resuscitated Papal army is now being openly sent to the aid of the brigands and reactionists that infest the Neapolitan frontiers. But Gaeta is now invested by sea and land, and the Piedmontese are trampling out insurrection in the Abruzzi. Of still greater consequence is the result of the elections to the national Parliament. So far as Northern Italy is concerned, the Government have obtained an overwhelming majority—200 out of 220 seats—which can scarcely be overcome, though it may be reduced, by the returns from the Two Sicilies. All the leading statesmen of Italy have been elected in the north, while Bertani, Guerazzi and Mordini, the leaders of the *ultras* or war party, have failed to secure seats.

The great American Union, the work of the statesmen of the last century, has been dissolved. If reconstructed, it will now be on a new basis. Present appearances, however, do not warrant the expectation that the breach between the North and South will be healed. While the President is imploring, Mr. Seward laying down the terms of compromise, and Congress deliberating, the Southern States are acting. Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, have followed the example of South Carolina by seceding, and have already called a convention to decide upon a new confederacy, to choose a new President, and organize a federal army. Georgia was expected to follow, but the action of Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas was more doubtful. At Washington the Planting States are regarded as “gone,” seduced by the hope of direct trade with Europe and commercial greatness at home, and the practical question remained whether the Border States could be prevented from following them. It was apparently to solve this question that the great speech of Mr. Seward was made. The compromise proposed by the Prime Minister of the in-coming President is briefly as follows:—

1. As to the Fugitive Slave Law, he conceded that while by the Constitution, it is left to each State to determine whether there can be property in man within its borders, there was an obligation to restore a fugitive slave, and he would advocate the repeal of State laws interfering with the Fugitive Slave Law. At the same time he thought that the objectionable provisions of that law should be repealed. 2. He was willing to vote for an amendment of the Constitution, declaring that Congress shall never have the power to alter or abolish slavery within the States. 3. He was willing to vote for what is called an “Enabling Act,” to enable the existing territory to be immediately organised into two States, with a power to each, if it can be done constitutionally, to be hereafter subdivided. 4. He would vote for an Act to prevent invasions of the slave States from the free States. 5. He would vote for a Pacific Railway as a peace measure; and lastly, when the eccentric disunion movements are over, he would support a Convention to see what amendments might be desired in the constitution.

It is not expected that these concessions will be satisfactory to the Border States, but that they will elect to join their fortunes to the Southern Confederacy, being unable to resist the great pressure put upon them by the secessionists. In that event there appears little hope of avoiding a deadly collision. It is known that Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, is in favour of vigorous measures, and the feeling in the Northern States is reflected in the almost unanimous vote of the State Legislature of New York, “to tender to the President of the United States whatever aid in men and money may be required to enable him to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the Federal Government; and that, in the defence of the Union, which has conferred prosperity and happiness upon the American people, renewing the pledge given and redeemed by our fathers, we are ready to devote our fortunes, our lives, and our sacred honour.” The firing upon the national flag at Charleston, and the seizing of the Federal fortresses by the local authorities of Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia, have created a feeling of indignation in the Free States that renders compromise almost impossible, and increases the danger of civil war.

The address of the Liberal members to Lord Palmerston in favour of a retrenchment of our expenditure, has been followed up by a telling and elaborate speech from Mr. Bright, delivered yesterday, at a meeting of his constituents at Birmingham. We trust that the keynote for the coming session sounded by the Independent Liberals will be promptly and vigorously responded to on the floor of the House of Commons. The Liberals of Bristol have taken a practical step which we would earnestly commend to the attention of other towns. At a meeting of the Liberal Association of that city on Monday the following, amongst other resolutions, was adopted:—“That it is the opinion of this meeting that, after the distinct avowal made by Mr. Disraeli of his intention to make the subject of Church-rates a party question, and if possible to extend and increase the powers to do all for the support and maintenance of the buildings and worship of

the Episcopalian Church, the time has now arrived when it becomes the duty of the present Government to take up the question and carry a bill for the final and complete abolition of Church-rates in every form; and that our members be earnestly requested, as far as possible, to give effect to this resolution.” It was further determined to hold a public meeting on an early day on the Church-rate question. The vigorous action of the friends of abolition is all the more needed as it is evident that the clergy throughout the country are working noiselessly but influentially to defeat Sir John Treawny's bill. Mr. Disraeli may go for extending and enforcing Church-rates; the Bishop of Exeter (actually more liberal than the Conservative leader!) for confining the rate to the repair of the fabric; and Mr. Hubbard for exempting Dissenters—but all are agreed in holding fast to the power of compulsory taxation.

BRED IN THE BONE.

THE Hapsburgs are incorrigible. No scourge can whip their fatuity out of them. Nothing but overwhelming pressure can squeeze from them the smallest concession of justice to their people, and the moment that pressure ceases the concession is withdrawn. Everybody will remember the Imperial diploma of October 20, 1860, in which her ancient local and national institutions, shorn, it is true, of some of their most valuable powers by the despotic will of Francis Joseph, were restored to Hungary. Everybody understood the motive which prompted this imperfect return to constitutional and legal government. The Emperor was looking forward to the meeting of Sovereigns at Warsaw. He wished to enlist help in holding Venetia against Italy, and, it might be, France. It was necessary for him to show some indications of internal strength, for even despotic monarchs are shy of pledging material assistance to empires in the pangs of dissolution. Hungary was to be conciliated, at any sacrifice—at any rate, for a season. Hence the famous Diploma which our Conservatives at home belauded as a glorious act of Imperial magnanimity, liberality, and political wisdom. Hungary took what was thus set before her, and began to work it in the spirit of a nation which comprehends and duly appreciates her historical rights. By means of her reconstituted local assemblies, she asserted the validity of Hungarian law against the assumptions of Imperial prerogative. Her boldness was suffered for a time to pass unrebuked. Francis Joseph was pre-occupied in securing the safety of Venetia. The danger which threatened him in that part of his dominions is believed either to have blown over for the present, or to have been effectually provided against. Garibaldi has been persuaded to postpone his project of liberation, and Prussia has probably entered into conditional engagements to Austria to fly to her rescue in case France should back Italy for the recovery of her enslaved province. Satisfied as to the security of his North-Western possessions, the Imperial Hapsburg feels himself free to deal with those of the South-East—and, accordingly, he has changed his tone towards Hungary from benignity to menace.

We need hardly examine the pretext of the Emperor that the Hungarian Comitats, that is, the County Assemblies, revived by the Diploma of October 20, have transcended their constitutional powers in several instances. Technically, no doubt, they have assumed functions which, when the constitutional machinery of Hungary was complete, belonged exclusively to the Diet. But, unless they were to act as the mere puppets of the Emperor's will, it is impossible to see how, under the exceptional circumstances in which they have been placed, they could have done otherwise. Under the normal state of things their legislative authority was restricted to local objects—but as the appointment of all civil functionaries within the limits of each county devolved on the Comitats, their administrative power was necessarily employed to carry into effect, within their respective boundaries, the embodied expression of the national will, or, in other words, Hungarian law. During the last twelve years the whole of their functions, whether legislative or administrative, have been usurped by the Austrian Emperor. His decrees have been substituted at will for the decisions of the Diet, and his nominees, mostly Bohemians, have been thrust into all places of authority to administer, according to their own regulations, the executive power of the country. Francis Joseph dared not commence his restorative process by reconstituting the Diet—the Hungarian Houses of Parliament—for he well knew they would assert their right—a right consecrated by centuries of use—to control the national taxation, and to dispose of the national force. But contenting himself with promising that he would convoke a Diet as early as convenience would

allow, though with privileges wofully abridged, he chose to begin his self-styled reformation, by a resuscitation of the defunct Comitats, thus instituting or rather restoring local administration on the old historical basis, before the rehabilitation of the national authority.

When, therefore, the Comitats had been elected and came together, the question forced itself upon their consideration, what they were bound to administer as law. Under the Hungarian constitution abrogated by the Emperor twelve years ago, there was no room for doubt. The Diet had been for ages the fountain of law to Hungary—and what the Diet prescribed, the functionaries responsible to the Comitats administered. But now, in the absence of a Diet, and in presence of a great mass of legislation based upon arbitrary Imperial decrees, the Comitats could not take a single step within their legitimate sphere, without practically deciding the preliminary question, whether Imperial Decrees constituted valid law in Hungary, uttered as they had been without the sanction of the Diet—whether, in a word, the Hapsburg usurpation should be recognised as legitimate. They could not collect a tax, they could not enforce a law, they could not adopt a mode of judicial procedure, they could not exercise any one of their proper functions, without in some sort defining and fixing the standard of authority which they were called upon to administer. Was it to be Imperial, or was it to be Hungarian? They have courageously and wisely treated the period of usurpation as a legal nullity, and have reverted to the laws as they stood in 1847 and 1848, as their sole rule of obligation. The interval they regard as an incoherent and hideous dream which they wish to forget.

To this calm and determined assertion of Hungarian law as against Imperial decrees, Francis Joseph, after a short interval of connivance, has resolved to oppose a vigorous resistance. In a rescript dated January 16, 1861, he inveighs bitterly against the "criminal encroachments" of the Comitats. He had hoped that his paternal benignity would evoke a grateful response—he had even looked with an indulgent consideration on the irregularities accompanying the first impulse of "long-suppressed political activity." But duty imperatively demanded that he should put an end to pretensions which could only end in revolution and anarchy. He, therefore, orders the Comitats to recognise the force of all Imperial decrees as provisional law in Hungary until set aside by a future Diet, which he hopes their presumption will not prevent him from calling, and he declares his resolution to enforce those orders, if necessary, "by the use of material force." The gist of the Rescript amounts to this—that it is competent to an Emperor to annul a legality which has been recognised for ages, but that it is not competent to a nation to annul an usurpation which, after twelve years' struggle, is obliged to surrender its purpose.

To this Rescript, the standing committee of the General Assembly of the County of Gran (a body of "notables" under the Presidency of the Primate of Hungary) have replied by a memorial to the Emperor, dated the 21st instant. They remind his Imperial Majesty that "the Hungarian Constitution is a thousand years old, and a thousand years have the Hungarians had to do battle in its defence." "Such a prolonged struggle," they say, "and the continual violation of our laws, have made us distrustful." But they go on in a still bolder strain. "In the Diploma of the 20th of October reference is made to the Pragmatic Sanction, which was a bilateral contract. By the Pragmatic Sanction your Majesty is as much bound to uphold the Constitutional rights, privileges, and independence of the Hungarian nation, as the nation is bound to be faithful to the King, and to recognise his hereditary rights. The diploma, however, violates several of the rights guaranteed to the nation, rights which King Charles the Third (the Emperor Charles the Sixth) your Majesty's ancestor, swore for himself and his successors to uphold. Your Majesty insists on the payment of the taxes, but they, in virtue of the Pragmatic Sanction, must be granted by the Diet." And they conclude their memorial with a passage that reads very much like a stinging sarcasm. "Not long since your Majesty acknowledged the political maturity of the Hungarians—the inhabitants of a country which is three times as large as any of the other lands belonging to the Crown. Will your Majesty condescend to come to reside in Hungary? Throw a veil over the past, and by governing the nation in a lawful manner you may be to the nation what King Matthias formerly was. The great Corvin (Matthias Corvinus) has been four hundred years in his grave, but he still lives in the memory of a grateful nation."

Men who can calmly speak in this fashion to the Hapsburg despot, are not likely to allow their nation to be drummed back into a condition of political vassalage. The infatuated Sovereign,

permitted by a fortunate juncture of affairs to direct his thoughts for awhile from Italy, instead of turning the interval to account in hastening on the restoration of constitutional government in Hungary, and thus converting present danger into future strength in that quarter of his dominions, is mad enough to rouse the lion in his lair, and to provoke a contest just where and when he should have sealed a peace. Does he imagine that when Hungary is up in arms, Garibaldi will lie idle at Caprera, or Victor Emmanuel and Cavour will be able to hold in the dogs of war at Turin? Does he flatter himself that what is done in Hungary will be unknown, or regarded with indifference, in Italy? Can he be ignorant that the patriots of both countries have grasped hands? It matters not. He is a Hapsburg—one of a Royal family doomed if ever there was one. Nothing, it would seem, can save him. All chances are thrown away upon him. And, therefore, as he persists in ruling without wisdom, and in promising without sincerity, so, in all likelihood, he is destined to perish without pity.

RAGGED SCHOOLS, AND HOW TO SUPPORT THEM.

PHILANTHROPY cooling down into law, and thereby ceasing to be philanthropy, strikes us as one of the commonest processes of this age. The eagerness of men when in pursuit of some social good to take offence at the comparative inertness of "you ought," and to seek a quicker result at the hands of "you shall," is a proof that, as a people, we are ignorant of the very alphabet of Social Science. We have not yet mastered the primary laws of the social system. We know little or nothing of the modes in which they operate. We do not discriminate the difference, often the contrariety, of the several forces at work. We allow our impulses to hurry us into fatal blunders—and we are surprised when our mistakes produce their inevitable results.

A notable illustration of this has just occurred. A Reformatory Conference was held last week at Birmingham, at which the main topic treated of was Ragged and Industrial Schools, and the main practical issue insisted upon was a more liberal pecuniary support of them by Government. Sir John Pakington was in the chair, and the Rev. Dr. Guthrie may be said to have been the chief speaker—the Jupiter and Mercury of the occasion. The principle constituting the basis of the Conference was thus stated in the circular convening it—"The welfare of society requires that all its members should be educated—therefore it is the duty of the State, both as regards society in general and each individual composing it, to provide education for those who cannot obtain it for themselves." And the object of the Conference is thus described in the same document—"to lay before the Executive Government and the Legislature, as a consequence of the principle above stated, the imperative duty of their providing education for this portion of the community—the neglected and destitute children of Great Britain." Accordingly, the resolutions passed were an echo of the programme, only the echo was both louder and fuller than the original sound which it reflected. For example, the principle is thus expanded in the resolution. "That obedience to the laws of God and man is powerfully promoted by the diffusion of sound knowledge, and the training up of the young in the exercise of the great duties of life; therefore, it is incumbent on the State, as far as possible, to insure the means of education for all children for whom their parents are, through poverty unable, or through ignorance unwilling, to provide it." Then the Conference goes on to assert, "That neglected and morally destitute children constitute a very large portion of the community, yet that no educational aid is given to their education from the Parliamentary Grant, comparable to such as is given to other classes of schools." A further resolution testifies to the usefulness and expensiveness of Ragged and Industrial Schools, and the last draws the inference "that it is therefore the duty of the State to give liberal financial aid to such schools, availing itself, as in the case of Reformatories, of that voluntary effort which is an essential condition of our success."

Now, far be it from us to depreciate the object which the gentlemen comprising this Conference had in view. Far be it from us to underrate the energetic, self-denying, and persevering efforts with which many of them have pursued it. Their philanthropy has shed a lustre over our times—nobly have they wrestled with difficulties, great and cheering has been their success. But we hope they will pardon us for hinting that the impulses of genuine philanthropy seldom or never take shape in law, without entailing greater evils than they would prevent. And for this reason—that philanthropy,

in the prosecution of its designs by means appropriate to itself, calls out into play in the subjects of its action the better motives of the heart in aid of its own work, and either does not evoke at all, or has the means of repressing, when evoked, motives which are extremely mischievous in their influence upon such as feel them, and in their effect upon society at large—whereas, philanthropy condensed into law, is powerless to touch the better motives, is potent in eliciting the worse, and is devoid of the qualifications requisite to suppress in its rising the mischief which it stimulates.

Take, for example, Ragged and Industrial Schools, which are but different shades of the same educational pattern. These Schools receive as inmates the children of the most destitute, most helpless, and most intemperate and degraded classes—partially or wholly feed them, clothe them, teach them, and find an opening for them in the world. A right noble work—a godlike enterprise! But it is an expensive machinery, and one that can only answer in the hands of those whose benevolence is warm, genial, and vigilant. Aye! but this very expensiveness and the uncertainty and difficulty of providing funds from year to year, constitute the safety-valve in the process. For it must be clear to everyone that to catch the children of the destitute and degraded, and do for them much more and better than you do for those of the grade just above them, is to present a strong temptation to the latter to put themselves within range of the greater benefit. So long as the work is carried on by active Christian philanthropy, and the means for continuing to do so are both difficult to be got, and uncertain as to their duration, the promoters necessarily keep their eyes open against imposture, the experiment may be given up when it is found to fail in its main purpose, and no one is tempted to indulge parental recklessness on the strength of a moral certainty that their offspring will be the better taken care of by the charitable, the more they are neglected by their natural guardians. But once make that fixed which is now but fluid and floating, once render the provision easy which is now difficult, once convert into a perennial growth and a settled supply that which now springs up and flourishes according to no known and calculable law, and you close the safety-valve of the entire process, and convert Ragged and Industrial Schools into children's Workhouses. What is now done as a matter of charity will be soon relied upon by the idle and the dissolute as a matter of right. The principle of selection must be abandoned. The motive for discrimination and vigilance will cease. The means adopted to dry up the evil will prove a powerful stimulus in increasing it—and every drunkard, prostitute, and pilferer in our large towns will bail Ragged and Industrial Schools as the best ally of idleness and profligacy. This is what a liberal financial support of Ragged and Industrial Schools from Government funds would inevitably tend to.

We speak not from conjecture merely. We possess evidence of the fact. Where a Ragged School is in full operation in the vicinity of a National or a British School, there may be observed a strong tendency in the children of worthless or vicious parents to drop out of the latter, and to seize the costless and more appreciable benefits of the former. And as the children of those who can afford to pay something for their schooling filter into the Ragged Schools from above, so they thrust out from below the children of those who cannot afford to pay. The process is constantly going on, and has even now to be most resolutely checked. But if such is the natural tendency under a system which depends very mainly on the voluntary principle, what will it become under an arrangement which ensures fixed and liberal supplies out of Government resources? Its effect upon the destitute classes would be most demoralising, most disastrous—very much akin, in the mischief it would produce, to the establishment of Foundling Hospitals in every part of the country.

We have no space left us for an examination of the marvellously loose reasoning which passed current at the Conference. We can only express our unfeigned surprise that gentlemen who care for their reputes as statesmen could have given it their tacit sanction. But our main object was to point out how philanthropy condensing into law becomes a *tertium quid* which retains no attribute of philanthropy at all.

COTTON SUPPLY AND INDIA.

THE Lancashire manufacturers are now thoroughly aroused to a sense of the jeopardy in which their great industry is placed by the disruption of the American Union and the possibility of civil war in the United States. The meeting of last week, at which it was resolved to form a new Cotton Supply Company

with a million of capital is to be followed up by a Conference having special reference to India to be held to-morrow at Manchester. Boundless as are the resources of our Indian Empire, and capable as its soil is of producing an unlimited supply of cotton, it has been found that the mere formation of a company for promoting the growth of cotton in India is of little use, and that in order to give effect to this apparently simple scheme it is first necessary to overhaul our entire financial and commercial policy in that great dependency, and to memorialise the Imperial Government and the House of Commons to afford facilities for the enterprise! A more cutting satire upon the manner in which our Eastern possessions have been governed it would be difficult to imagine.

The obstacles to be overcome before very large supplies of cotton can be obtained from India are alike great and artificial. Cotton is indigenous to India, and the soil fitted for its culture could produce sufficient to supply the whole world. Even now it clothes two hundred millions of the native population, and sends to Europe something like 300,000 bales per annum. Why then cannot the quantity exported be doubled or quadrupled? In the first place the price of cotton is too low at Liverpool to pay for the expense of transit through a difficult and extensive tract of country with few roads, and it is estimated that the land carriage alone nearly doubles the original cost of the fibre. It is characteristic of our system of rule in India that the necessary work of retrenchment in public expenditure has been commenced at the wrong end. All the great public works which have promised to open up the interior and develop the resources of the country, have been stopped for lack of funds, which have, nevertheless, been forthcoming to keep up a native army of Sikhs quite as large, quite as useless, and almost as dangerous, as that Sepoy force that nearly destroyed our rule in the East. Mr. Wilson was sent out to India to introduce a new system of finance, and a reform of administration. But so powerful are old traditions, so obstinate the resistance of vested interests, that the only visible results of his mission are new taxes on trades and professions and on the import of Manchester goods, and a new loan of three millions on the London Stock Exchange.

The truth is, and recent experience unhappily too strongly confirms it, India is still a monopoly in the hands of a numerous and powerful official class, who are jealous of the introduction of English enterprise. As the *Times* truly remarks:—"When the Government of India does interfere it is always to destroy. They have interfered with opium and with salt, and the result is that in the most expensive way possible, with the greatest oppression to the ryot, and by means of forced labour, they conduct a manufacture which nothing but a strict monopoly could render profitable. They interfered the other day with indigo, and the consequence is that the factories are all shut up, and the ryots all insurgent. They will probably interfere soon with the tea-growers and the buyers of jute, and as soon as they do these industries will go into confusion." So long as the capitalist is treated in India as an interloper, and his beneficent plans interfered with and thwarted by meddling officials, and so long as the administration of justice is a mere name, and the tenure on which land can be held precarious and arbitrary, there is little hope of the success of a new joint-stock cotton-growing company.

In resolving to "give special attention to the financial and commercial affairs of India" during the coming Session, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce have acted wisely. Such a strong and continuous pressure as they can bring to bear upon Parliament is greatly needed. Appeals to the Indian Minister and his abortive Council are worse than useless. If these officials have any real power in Indian affairs, or any effective control over the official phalanx that keeps out reform in Calcutta, they do not apparently use it unless it be to insist upon the payment of pensions to wealthy descendants of hostile native dynasties. The self-interest of cotton manufacturers working with characteristic energy and perseverance will, we doubt not, help to bring about an appreciable change in our Indian policy, and open up our great Eastern Empire to Western capital and enterprise. Their cause is likely to be greatly aided by the progress that is being made in the several great lines of railway in India, and by the ample supply of labour on the spot. If in 1857, under the stimulus of increased price the export of Indian cotton could be raised from 300,000 to 680,000 bales, there is reason to hope that, under still greater pressure, and with the prospect of still higher prices, our Eastern possessions would send us a much larger supply of this great staple.

THE PRESS ON THE RAGGED-SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

(From the *Times*.)

We only go too far with Dr. Guthrie. We put more faith in him than he does in himself. When he asks us to walk across the Straits of Dover, we are ready to go plunging on, though we cannot help seeing that he lags in the rear. The British public will certainly not leave him in the lurch. They may, perhaps, question the propriety of national grants to educate the children of artisans with their 30s. or 40s. a-week, to make those children fine ladies and gentlemen, to teach them music, languages, ancient history, and hydrostatics. But there can be no doubt of the advantage of taking the very spawn of misery and crime, and making them useful, respectable, and independent members of society. The work has only to be known and it will be supported. There is only one thing that would possibly damp the ardour of the British public in such a cause. It would be to hear that Government had taken the matter under its chilling patronage, and that, on the single condition of not doing too much good, the Ragged-schools might have as much public money as they wanted. It is the very strength of such a cause that it should be in private hands, and dependent on voluntary resources. The public are rather sick of Governmental operations. They cannot undertake anything—they cannot take a child by the hand, or give it tea and toast, without feeling that the parochial anathema, or a Treasury Minute, is hanging over them. But, thanks to gin and rags, to human nature good and bad, to the gutter and Dr. Guthrie, there is still liberty left in the isle. There is some good a man may do without being pulled up by either a Privy Councillor or a parson. Here they all are, thank heaven, outcasts; Arabs, as somebody called them; devils, as they are described by the saints; a nursery of crime, quite good for nothing: anybody's that will have them; yours if you like; not father or a mother that will own them—there, take the whole lot, and welcome! England is still a land of liberty, and can find work at home without having to look for it at the antipodes.

Let the State be allowed its rules. Let it scruple to give grants for clothing the children of parents who prefer spending their money in gin; let it scruple to give grants for washing children, for feeding them, for teaching them trades, for finding them materials, for taking them generally off their parents' hands. Here, then, is the little social wilderness left for free philanthropy, itself a sheikh of the desert, as well as these little Bedouins. Let philanthropy subscribe its thousands to win these sheep without a shepherd. Let it try every art with them; every bait, every cure, every treatment, from that of the most orthodox moral pharmacopeia to the most empirical. Let it try its homeopathical discipline. Let it teach them to follow rather than be driven; to love, and so to obey. Let it be a nursing father and a nursing mother to creatures that have yet to learn good instincts, and the very ABC of human nature. And is it not a pleasure to think that such work is still left us? Happily, it will be long before England is divided by lines of longitude and latitude, or its cities all intersected at right angles. How we all hug wild nature! A bit of common with a winding path has more charms for us than parks and spacious drives. A few clumps of gorse here and there, a hill-side soft and ruddy with heather, a stream wandering from nowhere to nowhere, and a bank that made itself anyhow, are relics of a golden age that most of us would not level, even if there were nuggets in the soil. What would our neighbourhood be but for the old beeches, or the cliffs hanging over the river side, or the old pollard oaks that the villagers are still so ruthlessly lopping? What a blessed thing that so large a portion of the soil, particularly in the metropolitan counties, will not pay for cultivation! Such are the wilds and vastnesses of our street population. Go out of doors, and before you get either to the Bank or to Charing-cross you will see specimens of uncivilised human nature by scores. You might easily go round the world and not see so many. The Lazzaroni have not more slang; the "Niggers" are not so saucy; the Feejeees are not so ignorant of everything they ought to know. So there is plenty of scope for travellers in quest of the moral picturesque. You need not travel from Cornhill to Cairo, or to Japan, or over the Himalayas, or any other training ground for the Travellers' Club. The region of Clubland itself is sufficient. Why, then, wish to see this common enclosed by hard official rules? Dr. Guthrie is at present the King of this ragged realm. Unless he would lose his throne, let him beware of Parliamentary money and Parliamentary rules. So soon as he takes the Queen's money he sinks into a Queen's man—a mere dependent and slave of the Educational Horse Guards.

(From the *Daily News*.)

Allowing for the moment that it is the duty of the State to provide education for those who cannot obtain it for themselves, it is a duty that ought to be discharged with the utmost care and rigour. The State is bound to exact the severest tests of inability. For all are agreed that, whatever the duties of the State may be, it ought never to do for the people what they may do almost equally well for themselves. If the State undertakes for even the humblest class of industrious citizens duties they might by an effort perform themselves, this is simply a public evil. It only tends to pauperise these classes, by deadening the motives to industry and self-improvement. In undertaking the parental duty of education the State ought therefore to demand the most absolute proof of inability on the part of the parents. We confess that in our view the existing limitations of this government duty are not too rigorous. Even the test of pauperism is far from being absolute or conclusive, since many instances may be found of persons receiving out-door relief who yet pay their penny or twopence a week for the education of their children. It must be remembered, too, that the Government can make no voluntary investigation into the relative position of the very poor in this matter—as to their comparative willingness or ability to educate their children. What may be sufficient evidence of inability to a private inquirer is no proof at all to the Government. It can be satisfied with nothing short of some definite, tangible test, and that test is evidently the pauperism of the parents. That pauper-schools admit of great improvement is perfectly true. But extensive voluntary effort subsidised by a large Government grant is by no means the proper remedy for the existing evils of these

parochial establishments. If, however, the demand of the Conference is founded not simply on the abstract duty of the Government, but on its actual practice in relation to education, then a much wider question is raised. The whole policy of State interference in popular education comes to be discussed. No discussion is more important or more necessary. The annual Parliamentary grants for educational purposes have increased in amount to an extent never contemplated either by the friends of popular education or by the nation at large. The practical result is that the Government, instead of being simply a subscriber to the national fund raised for educational purposes, and thus acting as a stimulus to voluntary effort, is gradually taking the place of that effort. And popular education is one of the last duties that ought, by a free and independent people, to be entrusted to the State. There are, therefore, powerful reasons why the existing large grants by the Committee in Council ought rather to be diminished than increased. But the whole policy of these grants and of the existing system of Government help will soon come on for discussion in Parliament. Meanwhile we are by no means disposed to unite with the Conference in making fresh demands for educational purposes on the public purse.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

It is stated that a project for supplying the entire army with six-barrelled revolvers is under consideration. The infantry will carry the new weapon hung by an iron hook from the belt, the cavalry in a holster. A detachment of the 5th Hussars, thus armed, killed in a skirmish near Jhansee more than their own number. The weapon, however, will be a costly addition to the soldiers' equipments.

A private letter from Toulon, of 21st inst., reports immense activity in the French arsenals. At Toulon shipbuilding is going on rapidly, and an increase has been sanctioned of one admiral, four vice-admirals, sixteen rear-admirals, thirty captains of line-of-battle ships, and twenty captains of frigates. All the troops of the new levy are being carefully drilled, and the instruction is to cease by the first of March. The camp at Chalons is to be formed in the spring, under Marshal M'Mahon, and include 60,000 men.

We (*Army and Navy Gazette*) have received information from France on which we can place implicit reliance, that the Emperor has resolved to construct with all despatch ten iron-cased frigates of La Gloire class.

FRANCE AND ROME.

The *Patrie* gives a denial to the report that the French troops are preparing to leave Rome.

The *Moniteur* announces that a *Senatus-Consultum* has been presented to the Senate, ordering that accounts of the sittings of the Senate and the Corps Législatif shall be placed at the disposal of each journal every evening. A commission has been appointed by the Senate to examine this project. No speech was made.

The *Herald's* Paris correspondent reports negotiations as proceeding for replacing the French troops at Rome by Sardinian soldiers.

A correspondent of the *Indépendance* says:—"The relations between the French Government and the Holy See are very cool, and are not likely to improve, if, as is reported, a brochure is about to appear in Paris under very high patronage, contending for the establishment of the Papacy at Jerusalem."

The *Siecle* has an article condemning the continued occupation of Rome by the French troops. It commences:—

We are at Rome in contradiction to ourselves. Our soldiers there are doing the business of Cardinal Antonelli and the congregation—in short, of Austria. Is this what the French Government wished, and still wishes? Certainly not.

It wished to give a pledge of devotion and respect to the Holy See; it has done all that was humanly possible to preserve that dying power; it has spared neither sage counsel nor filial remonstrance. All has been useless. The service rendered by France to the government of the cardinals is only equalled by the monstrous ingratitude of the latter. For twelve years we have sustained, sword in hand, this decrepit temporal monarchy; for twelve years we have suppressed all manifestations of the public spirit; and yet France is more attacked at this day by the councillors of the Papacy than it was at any period of its history!

The following is the conclusion of the article:—

Humanity, sound policy, good sense, counsel us, then, not to prolong our intervention at Rome. The withdrawal of our troops would probably be the signal for the departure of the government of the cardinals. So much the worse for it. It ought to have made itself loved; why has it made itself hated? But religion, what will become of her, if the Pope is deprived of his temporal power? Oh, be quite easy; religion lived in power and honour for ten centuries without royalty, without crown, army, or gendarmes; she will not only survive, she will be more respected and more loved than ever.

The greatest embarrassment of the present situation will disappear on the day when this duty shall be accomplished, and our troops shall embark at Civita Vecchia for France. France will then re-enter on her full freedom of action, and on her true policy; she will inspire no more unjust suspicions; she will no longer be exposed to covert attacks, because she will be self-consistent. We trust the French Government will without delay give public opinion the satisfaction it so ardently desires, and the peace of Europe an essential guarantee, by firmly establishing the unity of Italy around its centre and capital, Rome.

The great Bonaparte trial has commenced in Paris. On Friday M. Berryer opened the case for the claimants in a speech which is described as being remarkably clear and eloquent, and which the great

advocate sustained with unflagging power for more than four hours.

The French papers are occupied with full reports of the lengthened addresses delivered by the Abbé Lacordaire and M. Guizot at the ceremony of the installation of the former into the place in the French Academy made vacant by the death of M. de Tocqueville. M. Lacordaire occupied the greater part of his address with a panegyric on his eminent predecessor, and a survey of the work he achieved and the place he held as a thinker and a writer. M. Guizot opened his reply by a striking allusion to the change in time and circumstances, which allowed of an harmonious co-operation and brotherhood between men of religious opinions so unlike as M. Lacordaire and himself. He then pronounced a high eulogy upon the genius of the eloquent preacher, and recalled to memory that it was the advice of M. Berryer which had urged M. Lacordaire to abandon the profession of the bar, which he had originally chosen, and to give his eloquence a fuller and higher development in the pulpit.

The *Moniteur* contains a decree ordering the creation of a medal in commemoration of the expedition to China, which will be bestowed on all those who have taken part in the expedition.

Trade in France, according to the most trustworthy accounts, is confined within the narrowest limits. The manufacturers have reduced their operations to the execution of orders given by parties whose solvency is undoubted, and purchases are made merely from day to day.

ITALY.

THE ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.

A despatch from Florence, dated Monday, says:—"The Deputies elected to the Italian Parliament at Florence are Baron Ricasoli, and Signori Peruzzi and Ginori; at Bologna, Signori Minghetti, Pepoli, Berti, and Pichat. The result of the elections is generally favourable to the Ministry."

TURIN, Jan. 28.—The elections to the Italian Parliament have been conducted with order and tranquillity. The members for Turin are Cavour, Miglietti, and Cassin. Among the deputies elected in the provinces are General Cialdini, Admiral Persano, General Sirtori, Signori Malenchini, Fabrizii, Ribetti, General Lamarmora, Signor Ratazzi, and other satisfactory names. The result of the elections in Southern Italy are still expected.

TURIN, Jan. 28.—The number of elections in Upper Italy of which the result is already known or assured is 134. Of this number two belong to the party of Dr. Bertani, two to the Garibaldian party, fourteen to the opposition or to the centre, and the remainder more or less to the Ministerial party. Signor Cabello has been defeated at Genoa, Dr. Bertani in Milan, Guerazzi at Leghorn, and Mordini in Lucca. The first electoral news received from Naples has been good.

TURIN, Jan. 28 (Evening).—The number of elections now definitely known are 200, of which 20 are of the opposition party. Garibaldi and Poerio have been elected at Naples.

GARIBALDI'S SPRING CAMPAIGN.

General Garibaldi has addressed a letter to the Vigilance Committees in Italy. It is dated the 13th inst. He calls for fresh donations to procure the necessary means of facilitating to Victor Emmanuel the enfranchisement of the rest of Italy. The committees are invited to penetrate every Italian with the idea that in the spring of this year Italy must have a million of patriots under arms, as means of making them powerful masters of our destinies and worthy the respect of the world. I believe it right to inform volunteers that no enrolment is formed or advised by me for the moment. A journal (says Garibaldi) should be established to inculcate upon electors the choice of deputies, who, having as their first thought the enfranchisement and integrity of Italy, shall obtain from the Government the arming of the nation.

THE TWO SICILIES.

Liberio Romano, Minister of the Interior, has appointed a commission for the publication of historical documents concerning the Bourbon dynasty taken from the archives at Naples, and dating from 1790 until 1860.

On the 24th Prince Carignan held a review of the National Guard, by whom he was received with enthusiasm.

A telegram from Naples speaks of the reactionary movements in the Abruzzi and Calabria, as everywhere suppressed, and says the Piedmontese troops sent for that purpose were well received by the inhabitants of the provinces.

General Sonnaz has defeated the insurrectionary bands at Tagliaoccocco and Cusamare. The victory was complete.

THE SIEGE OF GAETA.

During the short armistice at Gaeta, the Sardinian Government attempted to negotiate with Francis II. for his safe and honourable retirement. It offered war-vessels to convey himself, with his family and suite, whithersoever he might choose, and to take into the Italian service, on advantageous terms, all native officers and troops, besides conveying foreign troops to the frontiers of their respective countries, and there giving each man three months' pay. The ex-King was also considered free to make any counter-proposition, reserving only the sovereign rights of Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy by the national vote. But Francis, instigated by foreign diplomats, continued obstinate, refusing even to see the Sardinian Envoy, and even taking the initiative in reviewing the conflict. On the royal refusal, Admiral Persano at once declared Gaeta

blockaded, and the Spanish fleet weighed anchor and left the bay. The Sardinian bombardment has since been vigorously kept up, that by sea having begun on Tuesday; and we are told that both on that evening and the following, the batteries of Gaeta slackened their fire considerably, as if a serious impression had been produced by the besiegers. Prince Carignan was about to proceed to General Cialdini's camp near Gaeta. His presence there would add to the zeal of the gallant Sardinian forces.

It is stated that the Russian and Prussian Ministers, though they joined the others in advising King Francis to hold out, quitted Gaeta as soon as they had given that opinion.

Numerous despatches have been published relative to the siege. The following are the most important:—

MOLA DI GAETA, Jan. 23, evening.—The fire of the Sardinians is vigorously continued, and is slowly replied to by the batteries of Gaeta.

NAPLES, Jan. 24.—The batteries of Gaeta slackened their fire yesterday. This morning a powder magazine exploded in the Sardinian camp, killing twenty persons.

NAPLES, Jan. 25, 5 p.m.—Yesterday the bombardment of Gaeta was continued by the Sardinian fleet. Gaeta has suffered much from the bombardment. The fire from the batteries of the place is feeble. General Cialdini has lost but few men. A Sardinian gun-boat has been damaged.

GENOA (via Marseilles), Jan. 25.—The *Corriere Mercantile* of to-day, says:—"The bombardment of Gaeta is continued with prodigious effect from the batteries on the land side, conjointly with the powerful co-operation of the fleet. It is hoped that success will attend the efforts of the besiegers in a few days. The fleet withdrew on the morning of the 23rd inst., after having silenced nearly all the enemy's batteries, in order to repair damages."

NAPLES, Jan. 26.—The bombardment of Gaeta continues. A treasonable correspondence of high importance which had been entertained with Gaeta has been discovered.

THE ROMAN STATES.

THE WAR ON THE FRONTIERS.

One thousand Sardinians attacked the convent of Casamali in the Roman States. They dispersed the reactionary band, set fire to the convent on the night of the 22nd inst., and afterwards re-entered Neapolitan territory. The monks saved themselves by flight before the commencement of the attack.

The reactionary bands in the Abruzzi have recrossed the frontiers.

The official *Giornale di Roma*, of the 25th, mentions several villages near Ascoli which it states have been destroyed.

The following is a telegraphic despatch from Rome, dated January 26th:—The Pontifical Zouaves, favoured by the night, attacked the Sardinian volunteers at Correse; two Sardinians were killed and six wounded. Fifty were made prisoners, and were conveyed to-day to Rome. The Piedmontese at Correse have been since reinforced. The Sardinians are also threatening the province of Frosinone. The reactionary bands on the frontiers are in consequence greatly discouraged, and are being pursued, betrayed, and left entirely destitute of money and arms.

Riotous demonstrations of a most serious character have taken place in the Apollo Theatre. The performance of *Il Trovatore* has been prohibited. Some students have been expelled from the University for having distributed tri-coloured cockades.

I regret to inform you that Pius IX. is not at all well pleased with the conduct of the English Catholics. They do not open their purses as they ought to do. Cardinal Wiseman reports that they show reluctance to hand over their cash for the support and increase of the Papal Army.—*Letter from Rome.*

AUSTRIA.

There are rumours of a fierce reaction in Court circles at Vienna. The Hungarians, who all along have demanded their Constitution, have employed the privileges granted by the recent Patent to revive their ancient provincial organization. At first it was believed that the Emperor would yield, but an imperial rescript addressed to the counties and municipal authorities in the kingdom of Hungary has been published. It is in substance as follows:—

An imperial ordinance, published by the Aulic Chancery, has reached the Government of Buda. It annuls the elections by the Comitats of persons who fled for political causes. The same ordinance proclaims the intention of the Government to act severely against all who refuse to pay taxes, and other decisions adopted on that subject.

The tribunals which have hitherto existed, and the civil and penal legislation, cannot be modified, except by a decision of the Diet. The re-establishment de facto of the clauses of the law of 1848 is forbidden. The Government will oppose it by the most serious measures; and, in case of opposition, the proceedings of the Comitats shall be suspended.

The assemblies in the Comitats are forbidden, and all the previous ordinances executed by force.

None of the ordinances of the diploma of October to this day shall suffer any modification, in consequence of the present decree. The concessions made to Hungary shall be maintained intact.

This receipt is countersigned by Baron Nicholas Vay and M. Szedenyi, and is dated January 16. Writing on the 22nd, the Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—

The foregoing document, which was published at Pesth yesterday, produced a very disagreeable impression, and in the evening the County Committee met, in order to subject it to a close examination. At first the convocation of the General Congregation of the county immediately was discussed, but, eventually the com-

mittee unanimously resolved to let the matter "stand over" until the 11th of February, on which day the representatives of the county are to assemble. This affected indifference on the part of the Hungarian authorities is here considered a bad symptom, and the prevalent opinion is that the ferment in Hungary will soon be so tremendous that it will be necessary to place the whole country in a state of siege.

After the publication of the Imperial rescript, Baron G. Pronay publicly informed the inhabitants of Pesth that the elections for the Diet would be on the basis of the electoral law of 1848, and that all the electors must be registered by the 25th of February.

The *Times*' Vienna correspondent cites the *Vienna Gazette* of January 20th, which contains an Imperial ordinance for raising a loan of 3,000,000 florins; subscriptions to begin on the 21st of January, 1861. Each subscriber of eighty-eight florins of Austrian currency will receive a State bond for 100 florins; bonds to bear five per cent. interest. The sum subscribed will be repaid in five equal parts in five years; first part on the 1st of December, 1862, and the last part on the 1st of December, 1866. In the preface to the ordinance it is said that a loan must be raised, "because the necessity for protecting the frontiers had rendered an increased outlay for the army necessary, and the Hungarians are in arrear with their taxes, the requisite steps for getting in which have been taken."

The Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna has addressed to his clergy a pastoral letter, inviting them to subscribe towards and aid the required loan.

The inhabitants of the Woivodina have protested against the incorporation of that province with Hungary in an arbitrary manner. They demand the convocation of a Servian National Assembly, which should meet at the same time as the Hungarian Diet.

The *Donau Zeitung* contains the following reactionary article on the state of things in Hungary:—

Justice (says the Ministerial organ) is no longer dispensed in Hungary, and taxes are no longer paid. The Imperial judicial authorities cannot, and the county authorities will not act; judicial documents disappear (*verschwinden*) from the public registries, so that private property of the value of many millions of florins is in jeopardy. Tobacco is openly sold, the direct taxes are not paid, and even the excise of consumption cannot be collected. Such a state of things is unbearable! When South Carolina refused to pay the Federal taxes the Government of the United States immediately sent vessels to blockade the port of Charleston. Shall we blockade Hungary? And how shall we set about it?"

The *Ost Deutsche Post* says:—"There is no doubt that the convocation of the Imperial Assembly of representatives elected by direct popular vote in the German and Slavonian provinces will take place at an early period, most probably in April." The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* gives a positive denial to this statement, and says the members of the Council of the Empire are to be elected from the Diets.

According to the *Giornale di Verona*, M. de Schmerling, the Austrian Minister of State, is occupied in considering a project relative to Venetia, which has been presented to him, and having for object to create a Chancellery at Vienna for the Lombardo-Venetian provinces, similar to those established for Croatia and Transylvania.

Count Teleki left Vienna on the 22nd for Pesth.

HUNGARY.

The Comitat of Pesth has resolved to firmly maintain the laws of 1848.

The Comitat of Honth not only demands that a responsible and independent Hungarian Ministry should be appointed before the opening of the Diet, but also requests the annexation of the provinces formerly belonging to Hungary, and the earliest possible convocation of the Diet at Pesth.

The General Assembly of the Comitat of Gran has voted a reply to the last Imperial resolutions communicated by the Chancellor of Hungary to the Government at Buda. The following is a summary of this reply:—"The permanent conflicts with the Government have rendered Hungary distrustful. The Imperial diploma of October 20 is in contradiction with the Pragmatic Sanction, which is binding on the King as well as on the nation. The oath taken by Charles III. is binding on his successors. Taxes not sanctioned by the Hungarian Diet are illegal. The Comitat demands guarantees for the right of the Diet to sanction or to reject taxes, and wishes that the King (Emperor of Austria) should reside in Hungary."

The Court Chancellor, Baron Vay, has informed the Prince Primate of Gran that the recalling of the refugees is prevented at present by the question arising from the sequestration of their property. The Emperor has stated that, after the settlement of that question, which has been ordered to take place at as early a period as possible, a general amnesty shall be proclaimed.

The Assembly of the Comitat of Stuhlweissenburg has voted an address energetically demanding the restitution of the property of Count Bathyani, which the Comitat says was illegally confiscated. The same Comitat has also demanded the recall of the heirs of Count Bathyani, who are abroad as refugees.

It is foreseen that some of the Obergespilde will not display the necessary energy in carrying out the orders of the Hungarian Court Chancery, and his Majesty has therefore resolved to send a Commissary to Hungary, whose duty it will be to see that the behests of Government are obeyed.

The price of Kossuth notes has risen from forty to sixty per cent., and it is said that assignats of the nominal value of 60,000,000 florins are still concealed in different parts of Hungary.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

A ministerial ordinance has been issued in Copenhagen, addressed to all functionaries connected in any way with the army, urging that every step shall be taken at once to render effective in its results the military convocation which has been made, or any other which may follow. On the subject of Denmark, the *Patrie* denies that the French Government has encouraged the Danish Power in resistance to the demands of Germany, or that France is organising a squadron to be despatched to the Baltic.

We find in the *Nord* copies of two despatches from Lord John Russell to our Ministers in Denmark and Berlin, stating the points which in the view of the British Government the King of Denmark is bound in honour to observe in his relations with the people of Schleswig. These are to abstain from incorporating that province with Denmark, to maintain the representative Estates of Schleswig, and to protect the German equally with the Danish portion of the population. Our Foreign Secretary points out that vexatious impediments to the employment of the German tongue in the public schools and churches frequented by that race would be a practical violation of the protection promised by their Sovereigns, but he also contends that Prussia and her allies in the Confederation have no right to dictate the nature of the regulations to be applied to the churches and schools of Schleswig. A very recent telegram from Berlin represents the Prussian Foreign Minister as replying to a late despatch of Lord J. Russell's on this subject, that "the question of Schleswig is not now under consideration, but that of Holstein and Lauenburg, which belong to the German Confederation."

RUSSIA.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

The *Posen Zeitung* says:—

News received here from St. Petersburg states that the corps d'armée stationed in the provinces of Lithuania and Volhynia are to advance to the frontiers of the empire, and will be replaced by troops from the interior of Russia. The soldiers on furlough have already been recalled, and the formation of three corps d'armée on a war footing has been ordered, which are to be ready by the 1st March next,—one to march to the Pruth, the second to the frontiers of Poland, and the third to any other destination that may be required.

The return of M. de Balabine from St. Petersburg to Vienna has been again delayed on account of the instructions which he has to receive from Prince Gortschakoff, in reference to the reported revolutionary intrigues in Poland, the Principalities, and Montenegro.

TURKEY.

The new commercial treaties are advancing to a conclusion on the expected basis of uniform duties of 8 per cent. on imports and exports.

The whole of the Druses arraigned before the tribunal at Beyrouth have been sentenced to death. All the Turks tried at the same time, for the same offence, have been condemned to exile. Fuad Pasha, instigated by General d'Hautpoul, had sanctioned the levy of a fine of 1,200 piastres on every adult male Druse in Lebanon. He also sanctioned fines on the population of Damascus, amounting to thirty-five millions of piastres, or three years' rental of the city. In the first instance, the energetic remonstrance of Lord Dufferin caused the remission of the fine. In the second, the English Commissioner prevailed on the Pasha to refer the question to Constantinople.

UNITED STATES.

Intelligence from New York is to the 16th inst. Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, had seceded from the Union. In Louisiana there will be a close race between parties. Private advices from Texas say that the disunionists will probably be badly beaten.

The programme for the establishment of a Southern Confederacy was understood to be already perfected. The object of Colonel Haynes' mission to Washington was to demand on the part of South Carolina the surrender of Fort Sumter.

The South Carolina authorities had notified to Major Anderson their determination to capture the fort if not surrendered.

The secession of Georgia was expected daily, and it was understood that the delegates from South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Georgia would repair to Milledgeville to institute a Provisional Government, and elect a president and vice-president, *pro tempore*, besides providing for a federal army and other defensive measures. Ministers would at once be despatched to foreign Powers to negotiate treaties.

Several forts and the Baton Rouge Arsenal had been taken in Louisiana by the Secessionists. Armed bodies of Florida and Alabama troops had seized the Pensacola navy-yard, which contained a considerable quantity of warlike stores. The Federal steamer Fulton was also captured. The Crusader and the Wyandotte only escaped by getting up steam and moving out of harm's way.

An enthusiastic demonstration by working men against coercing the Southern States was held in New York city on the evening of the 14th inst.

CONGRESS.

Congress had continued its vigorous discussion of the state of the Union, but no important results had been obtained. In the Senate, on the 14th, Mr. Bigler, of Pennsylvania, presented a Bill proposing amendments to the Constitution, to be voted on by the people on the 12th of February. This Bill

carries out substantially the ideas of Mr. Crittenden, though with some variation of detail. In the absence of Mr. Crittenden and other senators, Mr. Bigler preferred to postpone its consideration and reference.

In the House of Representatives on the 12th, a long debate ensued on the Navy Appropriation Bill, and Mr. Prior announced the intention of the minority to oppose all appropriations for the army and navy, in view of the probability of their being employed to coerce seceding States. The Republicans refused to allow debate upon the subject. The Bill was finally passed, it being understood that the Army Bill would be made a special order for three days.

As to the effect of Mr. Seward's speech on the Senate, the *Times* correspondent writes:—

As he spoke friends and foes in the Senate alike gathered about him, drawing their chairs as near as possible to the desk at which he stood, forming a semicircle of upturned faces. As soon as he sat down there was a slight applause in the gallery, which was immediately hushed, and the Senate at once adjourned. I joined the groups of Senators on the floor, gathered into knots discussing the speech. The extreme Southerners were loud in their denunciations. One said, "It is a declaration of war; another, "It amounts to nothing—it is all talk;" another, "We shall never approve of that." The moderate men from the Border Slave States with Whig antecedents were pleased with it. One said, "It is beyond what I expected from Mr. Seward, though not so much as I could have wished;" another, "It gives us something to stand upon at home." The ultra-Republicans disavowed the sentiments of Mr. Seward. "The 12th of January will be written as the day of the death of the Republican party," said one violent member; but the moderate Republicans, who really guide the party, approve it. "I see nothing there that we cannot stand upon," said one of the leading Republican Senators to me. These views, expressed at the moment, may be taken as fair exponents of public sentiment as since developed.

The same authority says it is believed at Washington that Delaware and Maryland will not go out of the Union; that Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia will go, unless Mr. Seward's speech, and the action of the coming week, should be potent to prevent it; and that Missouri was doubtful. The Legislature of Virginia had already called a Convention for the purpose; but had also provided, in spite of violent opposition from the Secessionists, that the vote of the people shall be taken upon the question.

THE FIRST HOSTILE SHOT.

The *Charleston Courier* of the 10th gives an account of the firing upon the Star of the West, which was carrying reinforcements to Fort Sumter:—

The Star of the West rounded the point, took the ship channel inside of the bar, and proceeded straight forward until opposite Morris Island, about three-quarters of a mile from the battery. A ball was then fired athwart the bows of the steamer. The Star of the West displayed the stars and stripes. As soon as the flag was unfurled the fortification fired a succession of heavy shots. The vessel continued on her course with increased speed, but two shots taking effect upon her, she concluded to retire. Four Moultrie fired a few shots at her, but she was out of their range. The damage done to the Star of the West is trifling, as only two out of seventeen shots took effect upon her.

After the firing had ceased, a boat from Fort Sumter, bearing Lieutenant Hall, with a white flag, approached the city. Lieutenant Hall had an interview with Governor Pickens, and was afterwards escorted to his boat, and re-embarked for Fort Sumter. The communication from Major Anderson is as follows:—

To the Governor of South Carolina.

... I have the honour respectfully to ask whether the abovementioned act... was committed in obedience to your instructions, and notify you, if it is not disclaimed, that I regard it as an act of war, and I shall not, after reasonable time for the return of my messenger, permit any vessel to pass within the range of the guns of my fort.

"Governor Pickens," the *Courier* continues, "after stating the position of South Carolina to the United States, says that any attempt to send United States troops into Charleston harbour to reinforce the forts would be regarded as an act of hostility. The Star of the West, it is understood, attempted to enter the harbour with troops, after having been notified she could not enter, and consequently she was fired into. The act is perfectly justified by me."

To this Major Anderson replied that he had referred the whole matter to the Government, and awaited instructions from Government.

The South Carolina Government is fitting up war vessels.

The Star of the West had returned to New York with troops, and with her bows damaged by a shot.

The South Carolinian Secretaries of State and of War had visited Fort Sumter under a flag of truce, but nothing had transpired.

Great fear of an insurrection of slaves was felt in the neighbouring Virginia counties, and patrols about every plantation were established. Twenty-five kegs of powder were found secreted in various places.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SENATE.

In Congress on the 9th inst., a message was received from President Buchanan on the state of the Union, and was referred to special committees. The following are the most important passages of this message:—

In my annual message, I expressed the conviction, which I have long deliberately held, and which recent reflection has only tended to deepen and confirm, that no State has the right, by its own act, to secede from the Union, or throw off its federal obligations at plea-

sure. I also declare my opinion to be, that even if that right existed and should be exercised by any State of the Confederacy, the Executive department of this Government had no authority under the constitution to recognise its validity by acknowledging the independence of such State. This left me no alternative, as the chief executive officer under the Constitution of the United States, but to collect the public revenue and protect the public property, so far as this might be practicable under existing laws. This is still my purpose. My province is to execute, not to make the laws. It belongs to Congress exclusively to repeal, modify, or enlarge their provisions to meet exigencies as they may occur. I possess no dispensing power. I certainly had no right to make aggressive war upon any State, and I am perfectly satisfied that the constitution has wisely withheld that power even from Congress. But the right and the duty to use military force defensively against those who resist the Federal officers in the execution of their legal functions and against those who assail the property of the Federal Government, is clear and undeniable. But the dangerous and hostile attitude of the States towards each other has already transcended and cast into the shade the ordinary executive duties already provided for by law, and has assumed such vast and alarming proportions as to place the subject entirely above and beyond executive control. The fact cannot be disguised that we are in the midst of great revolution. Therefore, I command the question to Congress, as the only human tribunal, under Providence, possessing the power to meet the existing emergency. To them exclusively belongs the power to declare war or to authorise the employment of military force, in all cases contemplated by the Constitution: and they alone possess the power to remove all the grievances which might lead to war, and to secure peace and union to this distracted country. On them, and on them alone, rests the responsibility.

I therefore appeal through you to the people of the country, to declare in their might that the Union must and shall be preserved by all constitutional means. I most earnestly recommend you to devote yourselves to the question how this can be accomplished in peace. All other questions, when compared with this, sink into insignificance. The present is no time for palliatives. Prompt action is required. A delay in Congress to prescribe or recommend a distinct and practical proposition for conciliation, may drive us to a point from which it will be almost impossible to recede. A common ground, upon which conciliation and harmony may be produced, is surely not unattainable. The position to compromise by letting the North have exclusive control of the territory above a certain line, and to give Southern institutions protection below that line, ought to receive universal approbation. In itself, indeed, it may not be entirely satisfactory, but when the alternative is between reasonable concession on both sides and the destruction of the Union, it is an imputation on the patriotism of Congress to assert that its members will hesitate a moment.

It is said that serious apprehensions are to some extent entertained, in which I do not share, that the peace of this district may be disturbed before the 4th March next. In any event it will be my duty to preserve it, and this duty shall be performed.

GREAT SPEECH BY SENATOR SEWARD.

Mr. Seward, a leader of the Republican party, and Mr. Lincoln's intended Premier, made a great speech in earnest depreciation of disunion on the 12th:—

He begins by declaring that before a settlement of the controversy between the North and the South can be effected a truce must take place. He adds that the Union cannot be dissolved without the voluntary consent of all the parties to it. He expatiates upon the advantages which the Union has conferred upon the nation at large, and upon the position of authority and influence which it has obtained for America in the civilised world. He argues that the formation of confederacies would greatly diminish the prestige of the country in the eyes of the world, and that their mutual jealousies would soon involve them in terrible struggles for the supremacy, and lead to still further divisions of territory. He points out the danger of a slave insurrection.

While listening to these debates I have sometimes forgotten myself in marking their contrasted effects upon the page who customarily stands on the dais before me, and the venerable secretary who sits behind him. The youth exhibits intense but pleased emotion in the excitement, while at every irreverent word that is uttered against the Union the eyes of the aged man are suffused with tears. Let him weep no more. Rather rejoice, for yours has been a lot of rare felicity. You have seen and been a part of all the greatness of your country, the towering national greatness of all the world. Weep only you, and weep with all the bitterness of anguish, who are just stepping upon the threshold of life, for that greatness perishes prematurely, and exists not for you, nor for me, nor for any that shall come after us. The public prosperity! how could it survive the storm? Its elements are industry in the culture of every fruit; mining of all the metals; commerce at home and on every sea; material improvement that knows no obstacle and has no end; invention that ranges throughout the domain of nature; increase of knowledge as broad as the human mind can explore; perfection of art as high as human genius can reach; and social refinement working for the renovation of the world. How could our successors prosecute these noble objects in the midst of brutalising civil conflict? What guarantees will capital invested for such purposes have that will outweigh the premium offered by political and military ambition? What leisure will the citizen find for study or invention or art, under the reign of conscription,—nay, what interest in them will society feel when fear and hate shall have taken possession of the national mind? Let the miner in California take heed, for its golden wealth will become the prize of the nation that can command the most iron. Let the borderer take care, for the Indian will again lurk around his dwelling. Let the pioneer come back into our denser settlements, for the railroad, the post-road, and the telegraph advance not one furlong further into the wilderness. With standing armies consuming the

substance of our people on the land, and our navy and our postal steamers withdrawn from the ocean, who will protect or respect, or who will even know by name our petty confederacies? The American man-of-war is a noble spectacle. I have seen it enter an ancient port in the Mediterranean. All the world wondered at it, and talked of it. Salvoes of artillery from forts and shipping in the harbour saluted its flag. Princes and princesses and merchants paid it homage, and all the people blessed it as a harbinger of hope for their own ultimate freedom. I imagine now the same noble vessel again entering the same haven. The flag of thirty-three stars and thirteen stripes has been hauled down, and in its place a signal is run up with flaunts the device of a lone star or a palmetto tree. Men ask, "Who is the stranger that thus steals into our waters?" The answer contemptuously given is, "She comes from one of the obscure republics of North America. Let her pass on." Lastly, public Liberty, our own peculiar liberty, must languish for a time, and then cease to live. And such a liberty! free movement everywhere through our own land and throughout the world; free speech, free press, free suffrage; the freedom of every subject to vote on every law and for or against every agent who expounds, administers, or executes it. Unstable and jealous confederacies, constantly apprehending assaults without and treason within, formidable only to each other and contemptible to all beside. How long will it be before, on the plea of public safety, they will surrender all this inestimable and unequalled liberty, and accept the hateful and intolerable espionage of military despotism?

He goes on to urge the utter inadequacy of the cause of the impending disruption—the election of Lincoln—to these anticipated effects, and he appeals to the loyal and patriotic sentiments of the people to resist the dissolution movement, and to rally round the Union. He admits the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Law, but recommends that it should be divested of some of its more odious features—only, however, to the extent of preventing free coloured men from being sent into slavery. He advises the repeal by the Northern States of their personal liberty laws; and he would be willing to amend the Constitution, so as to deprive Congress for ever of the power to abolish slavery in any State.

While I think that Congress has exclusive and sovereign authority to legislate on all subjects whatever in the common territories of the United States, and while I certainly shall never, directly or indirectly, give my vote to establish or sanction slavery in such territories, or anywhere else in the world, yet the question what constitutional laws shall at any time be passed in regard to the territories is, like every other question, to be determined on practical grounds. When the angry excitement of the hour shall have subsided, and calmness once more shall have resumed its accustomed sway over the public mind, then, and not until then—one, two, or three years hence—I should cheerfully advise a convention of the people to be assembled in pursuance of the Constitution, to consider and decide whether any, and what, amendments of the organic national law ought to be made.

He pledges himself to secure, if possible, the construction of two Pacific railroads, one connecting the mouths of the Mississippi, and the other Missouri and the lakes with the western seaboard, and concludes with the expression of a confident hope in the continued stability of the Government and institutions of the United States:—

I feel sure that the hour has not yet come for this great nation to fall. This Union has not yet accomplished what good for mankind was manifestly designed by Him who appoints the seasons and prescribes the duties of States and Empires. No, Sir; if it were cast down by faction to-day, it would rise again and reappear in all its majestic proportions to-morrow. It is the only Government that can stand here. Woe! woe! to the man that madly lifts his hand against it. It shall continue and endure; and men, in after times, shall declare that this generation, which saved the Union from such sudden and unlooked-for dangers, surpassed in magnanimity even that one which laid its foundations in the eternal principles of liberty, justice, and humanity.

MEXICO.

The intelligence of the defeat of Miramon and of the Liberals being in possession of the city of Mexico is confirmed, *via* Havana. The battle took place on the 22nd of Dec., and on Christmas-day the Liberals occupied the capital. The city was tranquil, and at the date of the last advices the war was supposed to be ended.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Cambrian brings advices from Cape Town to Dec. 22.

Governor Grey was on his way to the frontier to adjust matters in British Cafraria.

The political question which excited the greatest attention was the scheme of separation into a separate colony urged by many Eastern districts.

The vine disease had again appeared, and great loss was anticipated in consequence. The market was depressed.

The Pioneer, one of the vessels belonging to Dr. Livingstone's expedition, was in Simon's Bay, and was to leave shortly with the Sidon for the Zambesi. They expected to meet the doctor and party on the Zambesi, and proceed to the country of the Makololo.

INDIA.

The *Times* correspondent at Calcutta writes on December 22:—"There has been but one occurrence of importance since the despatch of the Bombay mail, five days ago, and that is the meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta to protest against the unconstitutional nature of the grant to the Mysore Prince. The meeting was one of the most successful ever held in this city. There were present at it not only

the 'malignant' Europeans, but the most influential natives—Hindoos and Mohammedans—residing in the neighbourhood. Of the latter, Moonshee Ameer Ali, a Mohammedan gentleman, of whose influence with his own countrymen the Government largely availed themselves during the mutiny, spoke in support of one of the resolutions. Rajah Pertab Chunder Singh, President of the British India Association, and the leading man among the Hindoo notabilities, took a very prominent share in the meeting, and moved the resolution which Ameer Ali supported. The resolutions (three in number, and carried unanimously) were as follows:—

"1. Resolved, that the arbitrary control now exercised by the Secretary of State for India over the means and the expenditure of this country, without reference to the Government, which should be directly responsible for them, is highly dangerous to the stability and well-being of this empire, and that it is expedient that a petition should be addressed to Parliament, praying for the establishment of some effectual check upon such exercise of his power.

"2. Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting the taxpayers of India have a right to full accounts of the national expenditure; that the Government of India should have control of the proceeds of the taxation it imposes; and that the changed position of the empire demands a Legislative Council composed of non-official as well as official members.

"3. That this meeting adopt the following petitions to the House of Lords and to the Parliament of Great Britain."

CHINA.

The following Foreign-office telegram contains the pith of the Chinese mail:—

"Great part of the expeditionary forces had arrived safely at Hong Kong on December 15. The Peiho was completely frozen up. Two thousand five hundred English, under General Staveley, and a quota of French, have been left at Tientsin, comfortably housed, with plenty of warm clothing and fuel.

"Lord Elgin reached Shanghai, December 4, and was about to start for Japan with Sir Hope Grant. Sir Robert Napier had left Hong Kong for Calcutta.

"The Yang-tse was much infested with pirates.

"Baron Gros and Mr. Ward had been at Canton. The site of Yeh's yamen has been selected by the French for a Roman Catholic cathedral, under permission.

"A steamer has been up the inland waters near Canton with perfect safety."

A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Tientsin on the 27th of November, says of the weather:—

The weather has now settled into a dry hard frost, which I am told is the normal condition of a North China winter. Even now the thermometer sinks at night to 15 deg., but we are comforted by the assurance of the Russians who have resided at Pekin, that it seldom sinks below zero. Our troops are distributed through the town in houses provided for their accommodation, which will be comfortable enough when Captain Gordon and his sappers have finished their labours in constructing fireplaces, &c., but which at present give rather dismal prospects as to their eligibility for a winter's residence.

There is not likely to be much trouble at Tientsin:—

The peaceful citizens of Tientsin do not appear in the least put out by our troops being quartered in their town, but, on the contrary, show a determination to make the barbarians' sojourn as profitable as they can to themselves; and profitable it is likely to be, judging from the anxiety of the soldier to invest all his spare cash in eatables, and unfortunately in drinkables too, for his rapidly acquired taste for "samschoo" affords plenty of employment to the Provost-Marshal.

The winter clothing:—

The warm clothing for the troops, of which such bright promise was held out to them, resolves itself into a pair of buff leather boots, worsted drawers, and a fur cap or hat, or rather both combined, which would make even the "regulation shako" appear graceful by comparison. There has been, to be sure, an issue of other articles which form part of the soldier's ordinary kit on all occasions, as blankets, flannel shirts, and gloves about as wind-proof as a fishing net; but something more is required to keep a man warm on night guards and sentries with a cutting wind and the thermometer at 15 degrees.

Late accounts from Canton state that disturbances had broken out in the north-east part of the province, and one or two walled places had been taken.

The *Times*' correspondent at Hong-Kong says:—

The matter of opening up the river Yang-tse to trade was engaging Lord Elgin's attention at Shanghai, and we believe it has been decided to open it at once as far as Chinkeang; but above that place we have reason to think that his lordship's views are that the trade should be carried on under certain restrictions, the chief one being that all duties, either export or import, should be paid either at Shanghai or Chinkeang. This of itself would probably be no inconvenience, as seagoing vessels would not be adapted for proceeding up the river, but a good deal will depend upon the facilities given by the Custom-houses at the two places. If oppressive restrictions were imposed this would induce irregularities in the trade which must be deprecated. The opening of the upper part of the river will be preceded by a naval force going up to communicate with the rebels and give them to understand that it will not be permitted to them to interfere with the foreign trade.

The rebels in the neighbourhood of Shanghai have been keeping quiet of late; there is no news from that quarter either of their further progress, or of their having suffered any adverse at the hands of the Imperialists. Of the reported rebellion, or riot, in Shensi, no further, or any certain, intelligence has been received. Ningpo has not yet suffered from the threatened attack of rebels.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

In Canada it is estimated that there are now 45,000 fugitive slaves from the United States, the number being augmented by fresh escapes at the rate of 1,200 a-year out of the 4,000,000 now in the Republic.

KING AND GRAND DUKE.—At Berlin, the King has conferred the Black Eagle on the Grand Duke of Tuscany; and the Grand Duke of Tuscany, now on the retired list of Sovereigns, gave King William I. the Order of the House of Tuscany.

THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND.—The *Palmer* says:—"The last accounts from Shanghai mention a report as being current in that place to the effect that the Emperor of China would in the spring send his brother, Prince Kung, as ambassador extraordinary to Paris and London."

THE FLAG OF THE AMERICAN SECESSIONISTS.—The Palmetto flag is described as follows:—"Fifteen white stars on marine blue ground, the centre star to be the larger one; a white palmetto-tree and crescent on the upper right hand corner, and the corner spaces, including the ground on which the palmetto and crescent is placed, to be of red."

GENERAL LAMORICIER.—General Lamoricier has declined the offer of a "sword of honour" from Ireland, in a letter, in which he says, that such a distinction is conferred only for battles won, towns taken, or signally defended. The General adds:—"Now it is only too well known that I have done nothing of the kind. The provinces I have defended have been conquered, the towns taken, the war material lost, and the whole army led into captivity."

THE LAND OF THE FREE.—A young Englishman, till lately residing in Charleston, South Carolina, wrote to his friends in this country, and, naturally referring to the great Secession question, expressed his opinion that it was "all gas," and would resolve itself peaceably. This letter was opened by the authorities, and being summoned before them, he was ordered to leave the city in five hours. The Baptist Church, of which he was a member, on his departure, refused to give him the usual letter of dismission to another church, on account of his anti-slavery opinions!—*Patriot*.

THE RECENT TRIAL OF ENGLISHMEN AT BONN.—A *Times* correspondent states that our countrymen who were sentenced to fines, one of 100 thalers, and four others of twenty-five thalers each, for their protest on the railway *francs* were prepared to meet the fines and costs whenever demanded. "No one thought that a remission or modification of the sentence was likely to follow, neither was any attempt made to seek it. But what has happened? On the 2nd of January King Frederic William IV. of Prussia dies, and with the accession of William I. comes the usual proclamation of pardon of all political crimes, including the particular class of offence of which the English had been accused. Thus the English find themselves unexpectedly relieved, at the last moment, from all penalties. Unfortunately, the relief comes in such a shape as to make it impossible for any one to regard it either as an act of justice or an act of favour."

Miscellaneous News.

AMERICAN SHIPS UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG.—At Liverpool, within the last few days, several American vessels have been registered under the British flag, in order to enable them to carry salt to South Carolina and return with cotton without fear of capture.

THE "MESSIAH" AT ST. PAUL'S.—A grand oratorio performance of the "Messiah," in aid of the fund for embellishing the interior of St. Paul's Cathedral, took place in that magnificent edifice on Friday. Some 6,000 persons were present, and the performances passed off most satisfactorily.

REDUCTION OF WAGES IN LANCASHIRE.—The firms connected with the Blackburn Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association (which embraces Accrington, Darwen, and other towns) have given three weeks' notice of a reduction of five per cent. in the wages of weavers, beamers, and loomers, on account of the depression of trade. The wages of the spinners, &c., remain as before. It is left to each firm to work short time or not.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ANDERSON.—The report that a Queen's Bench messenger had been despatched with the writ of *habeas corpus* is contradicted. The writ has been transmitted for service to one of the correspondents of the Anti-Slavery Society. Anderson is not expected in England till May, as the ice does not break up before April, and he cannot be taken through the Northern States. Anderson (says a despatch from Toronto of January 11), has been returned to Brantford, to await the action of the Court of Appeal, which will probably not take place before summer.

HOW THE PUBLIC MONEY IS WASTED.—A CURIOUS REVELATION.—The *Times*, in a leader says:—"The Life Guards and the Blues (Royal Horse Guards) have the same duties, the same rank, and are identical in everything except pay. The Life Guards receive threepence a day, or 25 per cent., more pay than the Blues. This has gone on for many years. At last the anomaly struck some meditative individual, and he devoted his leisure to an historical inquiry into the matter. After much official research he discovered that the difference originated in this wise:—Many years ago, the Blues being at Windsor and the Life Guards in London, the London Barracks required repair, and during these repairs the Life Guards were necessary.

sarily turned out of barracks and allowed threepence a night billet-money. In a few months the barracks were repaired, and the Life Guards went back; but the billet-money, that threepence, has gone on unexamined, and been punctually paid through all the succeeding years. No lynx-eyed member peering through the estimates has ever seen it. It has grown to tens of thousands, and is simply the result of the omission of a clerk to make a memorandum in a book many years ago, when the Life Guards went back to their regular quarters."

THE HARVEST of 1860 is pronounced by competent authority to be, on the whole, the most deficient gathered in for the past twenty-five years. The grain is wanting in bulk and weight, and the total loss is not less than 4,000,000 quarters. The deficiency must be supplied from other countries, and will raise our importations from five to eight millions of quarters of wheat and flour, to the further depletion of the money market. With large stocks of grain to purchase, and incessant rumours of war, Consols are likely to continue to rule low.—*Spectator.*

SALE OF THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS OF THE WORLD.—The copyright and stock of this paper were offered for sale by Mr. Hodgson on Friday. The auction-room was crowded by gentlemen well known in connexion with literary enterprise, among whom were Mr. Stiff, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Frank Vizetelly, and Mr. Hodge, but the bidding was confined to Mr. John Tallis and Mr. Merriman, on behalf of parties whose names did not transpire. The copyright (lot 1) was bought in by Mr. Tallis at 1,370/-; and the well-known series of portraits (lot 2) realised 24. 5s. per plate.

PROPOSAL TO SHELF THE REFORM BILL FOR ANOTHER YEAR.—The *Globe* says that if the Government can really satisfy themselves that there is a fair prospect of getting the House of Commons to deal practically with the question of reform this session, there is little doubt they will give the House another chance; but should they not be able to see their way clearly, they would incur a very grave responsibility by wasting a session which the public necessities require should be usefully occupied. The *Globe* suggests that a committee of inquiry would hardly fail to place the cause of reform in a more sound condition for legislation next year.

A NEW DEPOSITORY FOR WILLS has been recently sanctioned by the Judge of the Court of Probate, and henceforth the wills of living persons may be received by the district registrars of the forty county district registries of the court, for the purpose of being deposited for safe custody in the principal registry, 6, Great Knightbridge-street, Doctors' Commons, which is the sole depository yet appointed for the lodgment of such wills, under the 91st section of the Court of Probate Act. A series of instructions has, in consequence, been issued for the guidance of persons bringing testamentary documents for safe custody. These forms are to be obtained on application at the registries.

AN EARLY (OR LATE) HARVEST.—Near Longhirst station, the other day, reapers might have been seen busily engaged in cutting down a field of beans. In our own immediate neighbourhood, though certainly in isolated cases only, ungathered grain still encumbers the fields. On the Yorkshire Wolds the harvest is not yet completed, several patches of grain being still out. Near Sledmere there is a field of grain still uncut. On the moors, on the opposite side of the great Vale of Pickering, the bean crops are far from being gathered in, although some lots have been carried in during the frost, by hand, and stacked with layers of thorns and sticks to admit air. Near Cropton, on the 16th, some oats were led, and were not nearly in such bad trim as might be supposed.—*Gateshead Observer.*

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.—A day or two ago an influential deputation of the Church Missionary Society waited upon the Duke of Newcastle to confer with him upon the affairs of New Zealand in connexion with the native war. The memorial goes direct to the point when it expresses the conviction that an apprehended violation of the tribal rights of the natives led to the unhappy collision at Taranaki. It asks her Majesty's Government to make some "authoritative declaration" that these tribal rights will be respected, and the treaty of Waitangi maintained. It justly animadverts upon the governor's proclamation of martial law, which the natives were led to believe was a "fighting law," and it urges that immediate measures should be taken to adjudicate upon Wiremu Kingi's land claim, with a view to the restoration of peace.

CONFERENCE OF POOR-LAW GUARDIANS.—On Wednesday evening, a conference of Poor-law guardians and others connected with the administration of the poor laws was held in the London Coffee House, to consider the laws of settlement and chargeability of the poor, as affecting their condition and their dwellings. Alderman Sidney, M.P., presided. The conference was thinly attended. Resolutions were passed expressive of the opinion of the meeting that the laws of settlement and chargeability were unjust to the ratepayers, and oppressive to the poor, and have tended to bring about the present overcrowding of the dwellings of the poor with all the consequent evil effects; and it was suggested that the laws of settlement and removal should be abolished, and that an approximate equalised charge for the relief of the poor over an extended area, say a county, should be substituted, by which means free scope would be given to the poor man's labour, and the great objection which now exists to the erection of dwellings for the poor would

at once cease. It was arranged that the resolutions should be embodied in a memorial to the Home Secretary.

MELANCHOLY TERMINATION TO AN EVENING PARTY.—A few nights back, a lady residing in Gloucester-terrace, Hyde-park, gave a dancing party. The drawing-rooms had been divested of all furniture to give room for the dancers. Towards the end of the evening a lady was playing at the piano, when her sleeve caught fire at the piano candle. Her sister, seeing the catastrophe, hastened to extinguish the flame, but, unfortunately, instead of succeeding, her own dress was ignited. The scene was one of terrible confusion, and several ladies and gentlemen rushed to the rescue; but what was to be done? All rugs, table-covers, &c., had been put away for the evening, and there was nothing to throw over them. We believe we are correct in stating that as many as five ladies were on fire at once, and the screams were heard outside. The lady who endeavoured to save her sister has since died from the injuries she received, and the life of another is despaired of.—*City Press.*

MISS BURDETT COUTTS AND THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—"B. A." communicates to the *Times* the interesting fact that "Buildings have been erected at Miss Coutts' expense in Bethnal-green, which supply the accommodation and comforts best suited to the requirements of the surrounding population. They contain dwellings of one, two, and three rooms, furnished with cooking apparatus, cupboards, &c. Lavatories and baths are provided on each floor; club-rooms, washhouses, and large drying-grounds occupy the topmost story. The buildings are five stories in height, they are most substantially built, and, although executed in the plainest materials, are not altogether devoid of architectural character. The tenements, which consist of three rooms, realise 5s. or 4s. per week; those of two rooms realise 3s. 6d. per week; and those of one room (occupied by widows and persons without children) 2s. 6d. or 2s. per week. With these rents a net return of nearly three per cent. is obtained. When the whole are completed they will accommodate at least 175 families."

THE LATE SIR PETER FAIRBAIRN AND THE AMERICAN PREJUDICE AGAINST COLOUR.—Mr. Joseph A. Horner, of Bromley-by-Bow, London, writing to the editors of the *Leeds Mercury*, says:—

"It may be interesting to some of the friends of the late Sir Peter Fairbairn to know that he was a consistent opponent of the slave system, and that he did not merely confine himself to the making of anti-slavery speeches on this side of the Atlantic, but that when travelling in America he gave practical proof of his sympathy with the abolitionists. In December, 1859, I had occasion to call upon Sir Peter in Leeds, when he expressed his regret that he had been unable to attend a meeting of the Young Men's Anti-Slavery Society on the previous evening, at which Edward Baines, Esq., M.P., had presided, and Miss Sarah Parker Remond and Mr. Frederick Douglass were the principal speakers, and he then went on to say that he had met Mr. Douglass in the United States under peculiar circumstances. He was travelling in a steamer on one of the American lakes, when he was told that Mr. Douglass was on board. Having known that gentleman in England some years before he went in search of him in order to renew the acquaintance, and at last discovered the distinguished orator seated in a barber's shop, whither he had been banished on account of his colour, 'niggers' not being allowed to associate with the white people in the saloon. Finding that it was in vain to protest against this unjust treatment of Mr. Douglass, Sir Peter very kindly took a seat next to him, and remained in the barber's shop for several hours until he left the steamer. How nobly does the conduct of Sir Peter contrast with that of too many Englishmen who have gone over to America, and who, instead of acting in like manner, have turned coldly away from their black brethren! I afterwards mentioned the above to Mr. Frederick Douglass, and asked him if he remembered the circumstance, and he said that he did, and that if others would copy the example of Sir Peter Fairbairn the moral influence which England would exert against slavery would be very great."

IS ALCOHOL FOOD?—At the meeting of the Society of Arts, on Wednesday, Dr. Edward Smith, F.R.S., read a paper on "Recent Experimental Inquiries into the Nature and Action of Alcohols as Food." After pointing out the great importance of this question as bearing so directly on the general welfare and happiness of society, the author said he would proceed to consider in order the three primary articles of belief among scientific men on this subject:—1. That the presence of alcohol in the many members of the class of alcohols gives a common character to the whole, and is the efficient agent in their actions. 2. That alcohol is consumed in the body and produces heat. 3. That alcohol lessens the waste of the body. He expressed his disagreement with the first statement, pointing out that it was contradicted by the universal practice of mankind, for if alcohol were the efficient agent in alcohols, it was remarkable that after so much experience we had not been induced to obtain pure alcohol alone, and dilute it to the extent necessary to make it suitable for drinking. This, however, was never done; but, on the contrary, even medical men were constantly in the habit of distinctly specifying the kind of wine or other alcoholic liquor they wished taken in particular cases, without any special reference to the quantity of pure alcohol it contained. The substances associated with it, therefore, doubtless exercised a most material influence on the human system. The author then described the experiments he had made to discover the action of the various alcohols on the respiratory functions, from which it appeared that pure alcohol increased the amount of carbonic acid evolved, that rum had a similar but more decided action, that old ale and stout had a somewhat similar effect, but that brandy, gin, and

generally whisky, produced an exactly opposite effect. With reference to the second statement—viz., that alcohol was transformed in the system and produced heat, or was, in fact, a true food, the author, after explaining the reasoning by which this view had been supported, proceeded to express his dissent from it, on the grounds that after a large quantity of alcohol had been taken with fatal effect it might be obtained from some parts of the body—as the brain—in the state of alcohol, unchanged, for many hours afterwards, and it might also be detected in the breath, the perspiration, and other excretions, for several hours after even a moderate dose had been taken. The author then described his own experiments, which bore on this branch of the investigation, all of which tended to show that alcohol could not be regarded as food, or as really producing heat in the system." In considering the third statement, that alcohols lessen the waste of the system, Dr. Edward Smith explained that even if this were so, the advantage would be questionable; for health required that there should be a due balance between want and supply. After discussing various experiments made by himself and others, the author stated his conclusion under this head to be that if alcohols did lessen the waste of the system in health, they did it actual injury. His general conclusion upon the whole subject was that alcohol, although not a food, was a medicine, since it varied the intensity of the processes of the system, without being itself transformed and converted to the purposes of the body, and that it should be prescribed medicinally, and as carefully as any other poisonous agent. In conclusion, he touched upon some of the many abuses of alcohols, particularly in India and other warm climates, and gave some general hints as to the modification of some of our social habits connected with this subject.

Literature.

ADDITIONS TO THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, BY THE REV. THOS. HARTWELL HORNE, B.D. COMPRISING NEW FACTS RELATIVE TO TEXTUAL CRITICISM, &c. BY S. P. TREGELLES, L.L.D. LONDON: LONGMAN AND CO.

WITHOUT entering at this date anew into the question of the merits of Dr. Tregelles' labours on the edition of Horne's "Introduction" published four years ago, we may decisively and warmly praise the additions he now makes to the New Testament volume, in the interesting pamphlet before us. Of course the new facts bearing on Textual Criticism are not exhausted in these few pages: nor is the whole volume to which it is an Appendix brought down in all departments to the latest scholarship and literature of the subject. The matters only which are "most essential" have been attempted by Dr. Tregelles. Thus there are accounts of Tischendorf's and Alford's Testaments, of Mr. Scrivener's published text of the *Codex Augiensis*, and collations of 50 MSS., of Cardinal Mai's publication of the *Codex Vaticanus*, and of several other important works. An account is also given of a fragment called *Codex Zacynthius*, in the possession of the Bible Society, which has been prepared for the press, and is about to be issued, by Dr. Tregelles.

But the greater value of the pamphlet arises from its full narrative, and collection of particulars, respecting Tischendorf's great discovery, the *Codex Sinaiticus*, which is truly characterised as "one of the most important Biblical documents which the Providence of God has transmitted to us." This MS. stands alone as a complete copy of the New Testament of the highest antiquity. It also contains a large part of the Old Testament, the so-called Epistle of Barnabas, and the first part of the Shepherd of Hermas. The date is fixed by scholars, from an examination of the first few sheets obtained by Tischendorf as far back as 1844, for the 4th century; and a comparison of readings, so far as specimens have yet been published, establishes that it is of the same class of text as the other more ancient MSS. previously known.

We think it will be interesting to many of our readers that we should extract, without abridgment, the narrative here given of the discovery of this precious document:—

"The portion of this same MS., containing part of the Old Testament, which Tischendorf procured on his first visit to the monastery of St. Catherine, in May, 1844, was part of that which was found (he states) in a basket with other fragments, destined for the fire by the monks. At the time when he published this part (*Codex Friderico-Augustanus*) in 1846, and for some years after, he declined to mention where it had been found; and once, when conversing on the subject, he said that more still remained, which might at a future time be obtained, if the subject was not too much discussed. However, in 1844, Tischendorf saw a great deal more of the same MS. than the part which he obtained; and though he was unable then to procure the rest, he rendered the good service of preserving from destruction the remainder of this precious MS.

"When, in 1853, he again visited Mount Sinai, he could, however, neither see the rest of the MS., nor could he find what had become of it. His conjecture was that it had been taken to some part of Europe. And it was not unreasonable that this should have been supposed; for, in 1816, the Russian Archimandrite Porphyrius appears to have seen the same MS., and to have observed especially the New Testament portion of

it, and to have noted the character of the text, though the published account of this did not appear till 1856. And a little later, perhaps, Major Macdonald described a very ancient MS. which he had seen at Mount Sinai, containing the New Testament in early uncial characters, which he stated distinctly to be attributed to the 4th century. Major Macdonald also mentioned the manner in which the monks destroyed by fire ancient MSS.

"In the early part of 1859, Tischendorf was at Mount Sinai for the third time, having been commissioned by the Russian Emperor, Alexander II., to search out and obtain ancient Greek and Oriental MSS. At this time, he evidently had no idea that the ancient MS., of which he obtained a portion in 1844, comprised any part of the New Testament.

"He thus describes his discovery:—

"On the last day of the month of January [1859], I arrived at the monastery of St. Catherine for the third time, and was most kindly received by the Sinaitic brethren. On the 4th of February, when I had already sent one of the servants to fetch camels with which on the 7th I might return to Egypt, while taking a walk with the steward of the monastery, I was conversing on the subject of the Septuagint version, some copies of which, as edited by me, together with copies of my New Testament, I had brought for the brethren. On our return from the walk, we entered the steward's dormitory. He said that he, too, had there a copy of the Septuagint, and he placed before my eyes the cloth in which it was wrapped. I opened the cloth, and saw what far surpassed all my hopes; for there were there contained very ample remains of the Codex which I had a good while before declared to be the most ancient of all Greek Codices on vellum that are extant; and amongst these relics, I saw existing not only those that I had taken from the basket in 1844, and other books of the Old Testament, but also (and this is of the highest importance), the whole New Testament, without even the smallest defect, and to this were added the whole of the Epistle of Barnabas, and the former part of the Shepherd [Hermas]. It was impossible for me to conceal the admiration which this caused."

"He might well speak as he does of the thanksgiving to God which he felt was called for by this discovery, when he examined the MS. in his own chamber, and was thus fully aware of its importance and its contents. All the leaves were loose,—many of them were torn into separate parts,—but, when arranged, there was the New Testament complete, and much of the Old. The monks consented that Tischendorf should be allowed to transcribe the MS. at Cairo, if their Superior, resident in that city, should consent. On the 7th of February he left Mount Sinai, reaching Cairo on the 13th; no time was lost in obtaining the permission of the Superior; a messenger was sent to Mount Sinai, who went the whole distance there and back in nine days, returning on February 24th with the MS. At Cairo he transcribed the MS. for publication. After various negotiations, the MS. was put into the hands of Tischendorf, Sept. 28, 1859, to be presented to the Emperor Alexander II."

Among the more important readings of this MS. are the following. In John i. 18, we have, in agreement with the Vatican MS. and a few others, *μονογενεῖς θεος*, for *μονογενεῖς υἱος*. Again, like the same MS., it omits the last eleven verses of Mark xvi.: thus assisting to rid us of the very ecclesiastical elements of that portion of Scripture; and of the special phrase as to Baptism, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." It also omits that portion of John v. which mentions the Angel, as going down to trouble the waters at the pool of Bethesda. It has *δι*, of course, for *θεος*, in the celebrated passage in 1 Tim. iii. 16; and, equally of course, contains no mention of the Heavenly Witnesses in 1 John v. 7. In the Epistles generally it accords with the Alexandrian MS.; and is of especial importance for the text of the Pastoral Epistles and the Hebrews.

A facsimile edition of this MS. is to be issued privately in 1862, to those to whom the Russian Emperor pleases to present it; and it is to be hoped that the edition of the text in common types will not be much later delayed.

Studies of Christian Character. By BITHA FOX. With Illustrations by GODWIN. James Hogg and Sons. STUDIES of characters not the most celebrated, but some of the most interesting and significant. The "Lamp in the Cell" shows us the quiet scholarly life of Bede in the monastery; the "Signal-Fire" lighting the continental horizon is kindled by Huss and Jerome of Prague; John of Wessel and John Wessel, Reformers before the Reformation, are represented in their true character as "Watchers for the Dawn"; the "Friendships of the Reformation" are illustrated by the stories of Ulrich von Hütten and Sickengen,—as "The Artists of the Reformation" are in Albert Dürer and Lucas Cranach. Then, truly significant to the history of his times is "The Cobbler-poet of Nuremberg"; and Olympia Morata was long ago crowned as "The Tenth Muse," and Madame Guyon, worthy to be known by all spiritual natures, is *par eminence* "The Fair Pietist." The author has drawn these sketches with due respect for individuality of character, but also with just appreciation of their representative character, as "types of classes, and expressions of their times." The conception of the book is excellent; its plan ingenious; its intellectual appreciation of its materials both comprehensive and sound; its style, simple, clear, and expressive. A book that is not by any means one for young persons only; but which we are specially desirous of recommending to the more educated amongst them.

Messrs. Adam and Charles Black announce a new edition of Kitto's "Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature," edited by W. Lindsay Alexander, D.D.

Gleanings.

The cost of repairing the *Wanderer*, one of the "rotten" gunboats, is 7,300L

The subscription to the British Syrian Relief Fund now amounts to upwards of 30,000L

Messrs. Chapman and Hall will commence, on the 1st of February, a new edition of Mr. Charles Dickens's works, illustrated with the whole of the original plates, to be continued monthly.

A French paper says that Macadamised roads, better than any to be found in Europe, are universal in China, and are stated to have existed in that country for centuries.

A fellow stole Lord Chatham's gouty shoes; his servant not finding them, began to curse the thief. "Never mind," said his lordship, "all the harm I wish the rogue is that the shoes may fit him."

A Dublin journal observes that a handbill announcement of a political meeting in that city states, with boundless liberality, that "the ladies, without distinction of sex, are cordially invited to attend."

There are nearly 17,000 deaf and dumb persons in Great Britain, of whom about 9,000 are females, the greater portion being entirely uneducated, and without means of self-support.

A gentleman who had several sisters was one day asked how it happened that they all reached middle age unmarried. "I will explain," he replied. "Proposals without attentions, and attentions without proposals; this is the clue to my sisters' single life."

Messrs. Longman have in the press the fifth volume of Lord Macaulay's "History of England," edited by his sister, Lady Trevelyan. This last volume will contain the continuation of the history so far as the manuscript was left revised by the author. A complete index to the entire work will be given in this volume.

BUILDING OF LONDON HOUSES.—Out of every thousand houses in London, 999 are built for the market, without the intervention of any architect whatever. Nine-tenths of the remainder are built for speculation, and an architect knows by experience how in such cases any suggestion of his would be received if it led to extra outlay or caused a diminution in the size of the rooms.—*Letter in the Times.*

Professor Campania, of Sienna, has published a letter addressed to Professor Matteucci, recording the fall of rain of a reddish hue at Sienna on the 28th of December. The shower was confined to a limited area, all the other rain falling at the time being white. Two more showers of red rain fell at Sienna on the 31st of December and the 1st of January, and each time it fell in the same quarter of the town.

MR. GUINNESS AND A LADY WOER.—When the Rev. Henry Grattan Guinness was lately in Philadelphia, a young lady "of wealth and position" made him an offer of her heart, hand, and purse. The minister replied, "I came to America, not to seek a wife, but to preach the Gospel. Your note strikes me as much out of place; and my advice to you is, that you give the money which you seem willing to bestow on me to the poor, your heart to the Lord, and your hand to the first one that asks for it."

The *Charivari* contains a caricature by "Cham," representing the year 1861 as a baby in leading strings. A classical-looking lady, with sword and buckler, whose name is "France," stoops, with benignant interest, to look at the infant, and says to its nurse, "1861 begins to speak, but rather indistinctly, I think." The nurse replies, "Wait a little—he will soon speak more freely." This is the first political caricature which has appeared in France since December 2, 1851.

PURE LITERATURE.—The Messrs. Chambers, of Edinburgh, say that while the cheap press is flooding the nation with books and periodicals, works of an injurious and immoral tendency are passing out of favour. They offer the following estimates as the result of careful inquiry into the cheap periodical trade. 1. Works of an improving tendency, circulation per month, 8,043,500. 2. Works of an exciting nature, but not positively immoral, circulation per month, 1,500,000. 3. Works immoral, and opposed to the religion of the country, circulation per month, probably under 80,000.

LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.—For publication during the present month we hear of a volume of Mr. Kinglake's "History of the Invasion of the Crimea"; two volumes of Lord Stanhope's "Life of William Pitt"; two volumes of "The Private Diary of Sir Robert Wilson"; a volume of the long-announced "Works of Alexander Pope"; a volume on "Scepticism," with especial reference to the new movement at Oxford, by Lord Lindsay; Lealie's "Life of Sir Joshua Reynolds"; "The Life and Correspondence of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, from his private papers," by Major-General E. Napier; "The English Sportsman in the Western Prairies," by the Hon. Grantley Berkeley; "A Saunter through the West-end," by Leigh Hunt; "The Autobiography of Mrs. Piozzi"; the "Constitutional History of England," by Mr. Erskine May; the "Autobiography and Services of Sir J. M. M'Grigor"; and the Rev. G. Rawlinson's "Christianity and Heathenism."

A LETTER ON LOVE BY THE IRON DUKE.—It will be seen from the fulness of detail, beyond his wont in discussing matters, how much importance the Iron Duke attached to the tender subject of the following letter:—"Quinta de 8. Joac, June 27, 1811.—I have had the honour of receiving your letter on the 3rd instant, and it is

impossible not to feel for the unhappiness of the young lady, which you have so well described; but it is not so easy as you imagine to apply the remedy. It appears to me that I should be guilty of a breach of discretion if I were to send for the fortunate object of this young lady's affections, and to apprise him of the pressing necessity for his early return to England; the application for permission to go ought to come from himself; and, at all events, the offer ought not to be made by me, and particularly not founded on the secret of this interesting young lady. But this fortunate major now commands his battalion, and I am very apprehensive that he could not with propriety quit it at present, even though the life of this female should depend upon it; and therefore I think he will not ask for leave. We read occasionally of desperate cases of this description, but I cannot say that I have ever yet known of a young lady dying of love. They contrive, in some manner, to live, and look tolerably well, notwithstanding their despair and the continued absence of their lover; and some even have been known to recover so far as to be inclined to take another lover, if the absence of the first has lasted too long. I don't suppose that your *prolégée* can ever recover so far, but I do hope she will survive the continued necessary absence of the major, and enjoy with him hereafter many happy days.—I have, &c., WELLINGTON."—*Supplementary Despatches.*

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The prospectus of the new India Government Loan of 3,000,000L was issued late on Saturday afternoon, after business hours. The loan is to be raised in a 5 per cent. stock, redeemable on and after July, 1870, upon one year's previous notice being given by the Secretary of State for India. The transfer books will be kept at the Bank of England. Tenders are to specify the price offered. Five per cent. discount will be allowed on payments in anticipation. The day for receiving tenders is Friday, the 8th February.

There was a slight fall in Consols on Saturday in anticipation of the Indian loan, but on Monday the market rose $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and continued firm.

The market for Public Securities continues in a quiet but steady position, the few transactions reported to-day having taken place at the prices previously current. Speculation is still very much restricted, but the increasing demand for money, the Indian Loan, and mercantile failures have led to a small number of sales. Consols are 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Money; and 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the 7th February. For March they are 92 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Reduced and Three per Cents. are 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$. Exchequer Bills, 7s. to 3s. dis. Bank Stock, 233. India Loan, 99 99 $\frac{1}{2}$; ditto 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Enfaced Paper, 100; ditto Bonds, 17s. dis.; and India Stock, 218 218.

The demand for money is rather active, and the banks and discount houses are charging full rates for the accommodation they afford. The recent commercial failures, the Indian Loan, and the preparations for the 4th of the month, are all exercising some influence upon the market; but no material change in the rates seems to be anticipated.

The position of the demand for America is summed up in the fact that the packet which left Liverpool on Saturday took only 53,130L in specie, being about one-tenth of the amount shipped by a single steamer during the height of the demand, and one-fifth of that sent by the packet of the previous Saturday. The improvement in the American money market continues. According to the latest news, specie is accumulating rapidly in the banks of New York.

The embarrassments in the Levant trade, chiefly amongst Greek houses, have now extended so far as to force themselves upon public notice. There were on Saturday numerous failures, both in London and Manchester. Omitting from the account certain small houses, and others which may yet recover themselves, the undermentioned firms have succumbed:—1. Mr. Dominic Navone, of London. 2. Mr. S. P. Zizina, of London. 3. Mr. P. C. Selvago, of Manchester, but more recently of London. 4. Messrs. Demetrio Pappa and Co., of Manchester and Smyrna. In the first case mentioned (Navone), it is thought that the liabilities will be about 20,000L, and it is said that the prospect of a surplus depends upon the liquidation of the debts in Constantinople. In the second case (Zizina), the liabilities are about 85,000L, whilst the assets in some quarters are alleged to be 93,000L. In the third case (Selvago), the liabilities may be 12,000L or 13,000L. In the fourth (Pappa and Co.), it is said that the firm hope ere long to resume payment in full.

Messrs. Charles William Ede and Co. have intimated that they suspend their payments. The liabilities are about 101,000L, whilst the assets are estimated at as high as 130,000L. The house is connected by relationship with that of Messrs. Francis Ede, Son and Co., who lately stopped.

The Foreign Stocks are steady, and Mexican is buoyant at the improvement recorded yesterday.

Business in the Railway Share Market continues rather inactive, the dealers and speculators being engaged with the preparations for the settlement, and prices generally show little variation of importance.

We regret to observe that the reports of the condition of trade in many districts are becoming decidedly less favourable. There is less enterprise, less actual business, and less employment for the labouring classes. The complaints are as yet more local than general, but some interests are suffering rather severely. The cotton and woollen trades are relatively in the best, and the iron, silk, and hosiery in the worst position. It is not to be denied that, what with the state of the American and Eastern markets, and the condition of the money market, a check has been given to trade.

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